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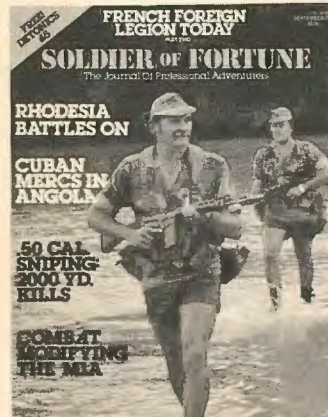
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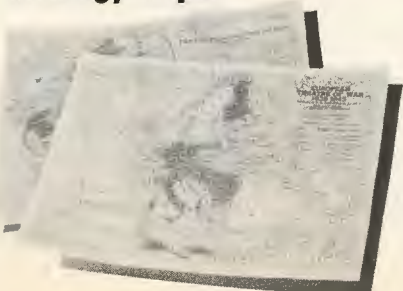
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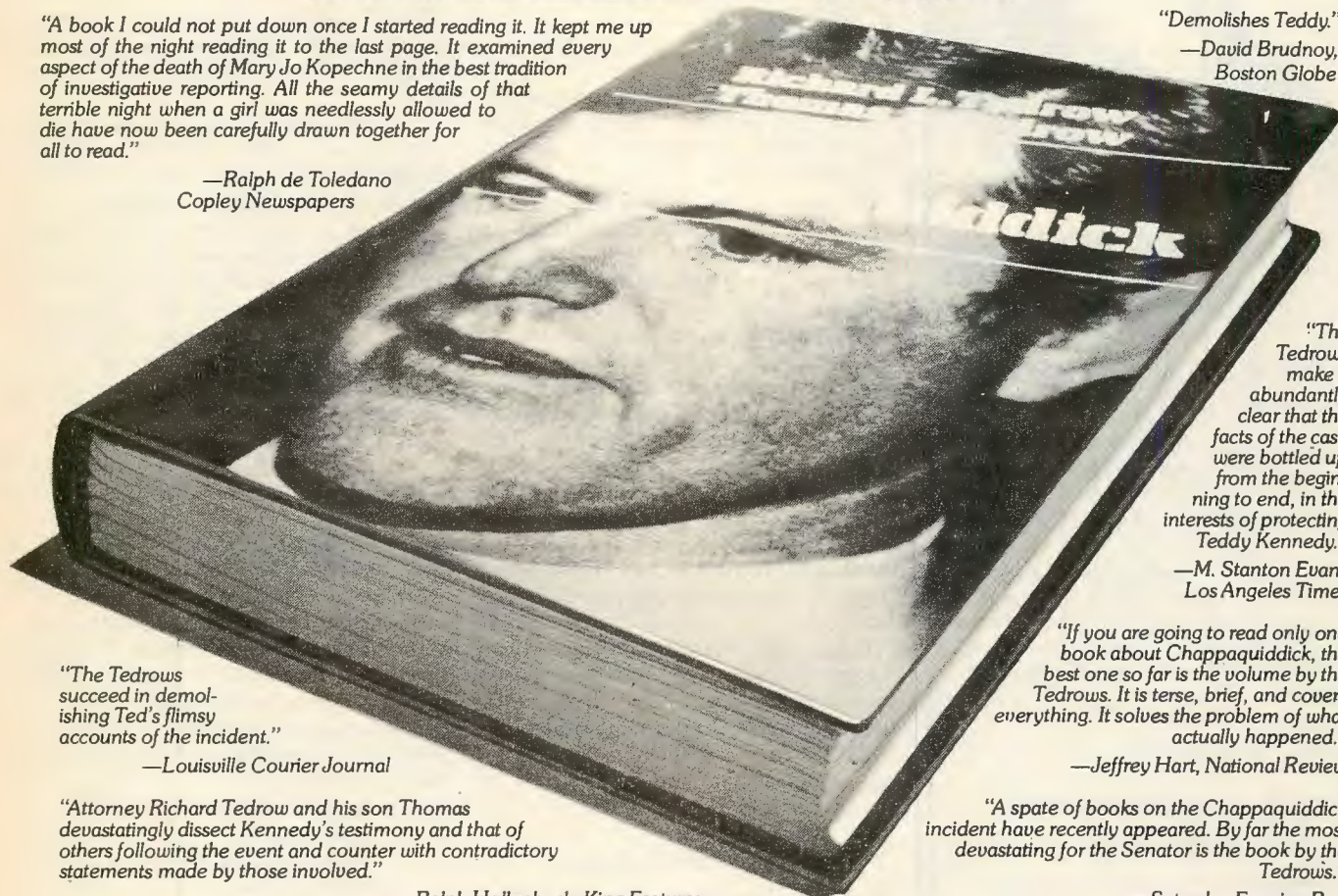
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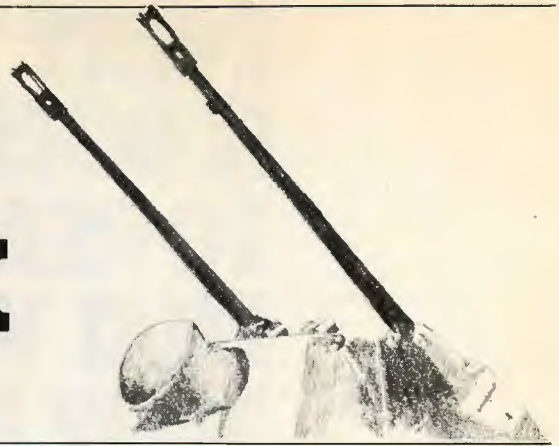
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FLAK



CHEERS FOR HORSES . . .

Sirs:

As a long-time believer in horse cavalry, I thoroughly enjoyed "The Cavalry Rides Again" (SOF, November '78, January '79, February '79) . . .

Writing for the *Military Review*, May 1969, Maj. James McCaskey stated the case for horsepower very well. He said the horse cavalry was well suited to counterinsurgency work. Its ease of route-altering made countermeasures such as mines and boobytraps considerably harder to employ effectively against it. Besides the age-old psychological advantages noted by Maj. Williams, the economy of the horse is hard to overlook in fuel-starved areas such as Rhodesia. A UH-1B helicopter, for instance, can carry eight combat-equipped troopers for eight hours and requires 4000 pounds of fuel. Eight horses could do the same on 200 pounds of hay and grain.

I close with Maj. McCaskey's words, "Nothing is really obsolete unless something has come along which can do the job better under the same conditions. Nothing better than the horse has yet appeared to assume the cavalry role in security patrolling."

S.T.T. Rouillier
St. Francisville, Louisiana

LEWIS GUNSHIP EARLIER THAN TSMG . . .

Gentlemen:

I received your March '79 issue of SOF and thoroughly enjoyed your article on the Thompson sub-machine gun. I found the picture of the early gunship with four downward-pointing Thompsons especially interesting, but I would like to state that the idea was not the first of its kind.

The earliest gunship I know of with any certainty was developed by a Royal Flying Corps pilot serving in Mesopotamia (modern-day Iraq). I read about it in a book I found several years ago which included two photographs of the plan in question. I believe the year was 1916. The setup consisted of a B.E.2 two-seater flown as a single-seater. Mounted under the plane's fuselage were five Lewis guns, pointing downward at a 45-degree angle and

splayed outward at about a 30-degree angle. The gunship's purpose was to attack Turkish aerodromes and troop convoys.

The idea worked beautifully when the pilot tested it, even though he could not reload his guns or clear jams while still airborne. Unfortunately, he tested it near a squadron of British cavalry who were watering their horses, and the roar of five Lewis guns firing all at once stampeded the mounts all over creation. The cavalry commander, understandably vexed, lodged a complaint, and to make a long story short, the pilot was called on the carpet and told to abandon the idea.

Sincerely,
D.W. Reiley
Elizabeth City, North Carolina

GREETINGS FROM AFRICA . . .

Dear Bob:

Just a few lines to wish you and all the staff at *Soldier of Fortune* magazine greetings from the Silhouette Hand-Gunners Club of South Africa.

Keep up the good work. Your magazine is enjoyed by all of us in the club. All the very best for 1979!

Yours sincerely,
Ken Groom
Secretary/Co-Owner
36 Westmilne
78 West Street
Durban 4001
Natal
Republic of South Africa

TRAINING vs. TECHNOLOGY . . .

Sir:

Just got my February '79 SOF and read the article on the Magna Trigger. Put your flak vest on. Aside from being the berries as far as quality and technology go, what good is it? I've been a cop for 15 years and have seen and tried oodles of police toys. Most of them were poor substitutes for training.

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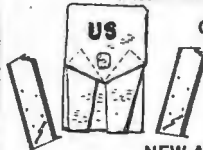
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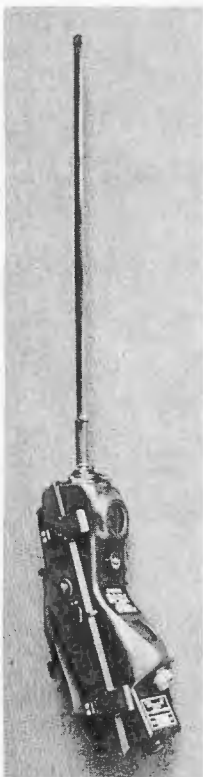
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permanently rehabilitate your attacker, and he/she will probably dust you!

Why let your gun get taken away in the first place? Anyone who surrenders his only gun better have checked the suicide clause in his insurance policy. Situations where your weapon might be snatched can be avoided, again by training, and good equipment also helps. A quality, close-in rig with a good release is a worthwhile investment. Being able to be a mean s.o.b. in a scrape with a few hidden tricks is another. You may have to learn the hard way, but learn!

Policemen often get into trouble by thinking they're bionic, or sometimes not thinking much at all. I don't believe sophistication is the answer on the street. Heh, do you think Smith could build a phaser, like Capt. Kirk uses?

Respectfully,
Sgt. Gary Paul Johnston
Shaker Heights Police Department
Shaker Heights, Ohio

**RHODESIAN FIREARMS
REGULATIONS ...**

Dear Sir:

I very much enjoy your magazine and have been a subscriber from the time you printed the first issue in 1975. I feel we have something in common in view of the fact that we both served as officers in the 5th Special Forces Group in Vietnam; I was there in 1968-69.

For the past five years, I have been a deputy sheriff. However, I have decided to go to Rhodesia in about 60-90 days and would appreciate any information you could give me concerning regulations allowing the taking of firearms with me, both pistol and rifle. Will I be allowed to take them as luggage and will I be allowed to import them into Rhodesia? Any advice will be appreciated.

Sincerely,
D.L.W.
Indiana

You should not have any difficulty in entering Rhodesia with a rifle and pistol. They must be declared as you process through customs and immigration. Ammunition for any other caliber than 9mm and .308 is difficult to obtain and expensive when you can. — The Eds.

**KEEP THE
BERET ...**

Dear Sirs:

I am a paratrooper with the 82nd Airborne Division. This letter concerns Gen. Rogers' ruling on the demise of the maroon beret.

It has been said that the 82nd is a conventional unit. To this I have to ask, what is conventional about a unit that parachutes into combat, most often behind enemy lines, with limited supplies? Doing its job mostly on sheer guts and determination?

Uniformity, one of Gen. Rogers' major points, is important. But what about unit pride, esprit de corps? He is lowering the

morale of the finest Division in the Army and quite possibly the world.

Despite Gen. Rogers, I will continue to serve my unit with pride and professionalism. Keep up the good work; your magazine is the best there is.

Sincerely,
Clinton D. Mills
Fort Bragg, North Carolina

**AFRICAN BOOKS
AVAILABLE ...**

Dear Sir:

Would you please tell me where I can order Mike Williams' new book about Rhodesia? No one in Fort Worth has it or seems interested in it. Also, what is the name of Robin Moore's book? I have one book by Moore, called *Rhodesia*. I read in SOF that he was to have a book about Americans fighting with the Rhodesian Army.

SOF is the only magazine that tells it like it is. Keep up the good work.

Yours truly,
Bill Roberts
Fort Worth, Texas

All three books to which you refer have been or will be published by Condor Press, 29 E. Main St., Westport, Connecticut 06880. Mail orders should be sent to this address, marked to the attention of M.L. Walsh.

Rhodesia by Robin Moore and Major Mike by Mike Williams (as told to Robin Moore) are now available. A revised, second printing of Major Mike is being printed and should be available by the time this issue of SOF hits the newsstands.

Moore's Crippled Eagles has not yet been published but will be distributed by Condor when it has been printed — The Eds.

**VIVE LA
LEGION ...**

Dear Sir:

I want to commend you on your very fine informative magazine. Keep up the good work. Major John S. Arvidson's article on the French Foreign Legion was excellent-plus and gave the reader an inside view of today's Legion.

I have been an admirer of the Legion for many years and have corresponded with the Legion, legionnaires and former legionnaires. In 1963, the First Foreign Regiment presented me with a complete camouflaged field uniform to commemorate a century of Camerone. The uniform is one of my prized possessions.

My wife and I had the privilege of visiting France, in 1977, and went to Aubagne. The time spent in the Legion Museum and their Hall of Honor was worth the entire trip.

Quoting Major Arvidson, "This is disciplined professionalism."

Sincerely,
L. C. Englert
Wausau, Wisconsin

Continued on page 79

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BOARD BULLETIN

RHODESIAN SECURITY FORCES BEING HIRED ...

SOF photographer Darryl Tucker is finishing up a contract as a guard for the private security firm, Armaguard, on a ranch near Umtali located on the Rhodesian-Mozambique border. Armaguard's Salisbury number is 67-766.

Tucker reports that more and more ranches and large farms are hiring their own security forces.

PROFESSIONAL RUNS RHODESIAN SAFARIS ...

George Graselli, a professional safari operator, is booking hunting parties in northwestern Rhodesia. This true "professional" is highly recommended by both Brown and Donovan who hunted with him in 1976. For further information, contact Grasselli, P.O. Box 220, Wankie, Rhodesia. Tel.: Wankie 55529.

LETTERS SUPPORT SOF ...

Bill Cottriss of Medina, New York, reports a recent flurry of letters supporting SOF, after an attack on the magazine in the Lockport, NY, *Union-Sun Journal's* letters-to-the-editor column from a rather confused individual whose gorge had risen at hearing we ran ads for weapons, photographs of "supportive bloodshed" (whatever that means), and were more concerned with human destruction than human sexuality. To those of you who responded to this muddled diatribe: much thanks.

C'S GET F ...

After serving faithfully in three wars, the infamous C-ration is being phased out. New combat rations are in the wings that will delight even the most delicate taste buds. Freeze-dried strawberries and pineapple nut cake are among the most appealing.

However, the always-prepared Army has warehouses full of old C- (canned) rations, so don't look for newer foodstuffs until sometime in 1983.

According to taste tests in the field, the new grub passes with flying colors and weighs one-third less.

MERC WORK AVAILABLE ...

Dave McGrady, a well-known South African professional, is forming a group called Mercenary Operations, Unlimited. Its operations will include small-unit, high-risk combat missions and seek-and-destroy, search-and-rescue strike forces. Recruited pros hail from the U.S., Canada, Great Britain, and France.



Dave McGrady on Security ops, Rhodesia, early 1978.

RIDGWAY ON RED BERET ...

In a letter to the editor of the *New York Times*, dated 4 January 1979, Gen. Matthew B. Ridgway spoke out against banning the Airborne's red beret. Ridgway cited probable loss of esprit de corps as a major factor in his opposition to the decision, declaring that:

"Our Airborne is an elite corps, envied and feared by our foes and admired by our friends. Its members are imbued with the highest concepts of dedicated service, proud of its achievements and its uniform, proud of the Airborne image in the public eye, and proud of the red beret, which marked them at once for all who

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What is a Light Load?

Light Load is a precision engineered handgun conversion kit for dry firing that permits accurate simulation of the handgun firing process. It will improve your sight alignment, grip, hand steadying, trigger squeezing, follow-thru and hit recording. The Light Load kit contains an electronic cylinder that replaces your gun's cylinder, a lens tube that slips into the barrel, a regulation scale target and instruction brochure.

Light Load is perfectly accurate.

The Light Load lens tube is spring loaded and self aligning so the image that you see on the target appears at the exact spot that a bullet hole would if you were firing a live round. Sight the gun exactly as you would normally do with a loaded weapon. If you are *on* with Light Load, you will be *on* with shells in the gun.

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Light Load can be safely fired in your living room.

The burst of light that the Light Load unit emits is safe to both shooter and bystanders. This safety feature makes Light Load the finest device available to teach the entire family proper handgun use, safety and etiquette. Plus, it permits regulation scale target or combat shooting practice in the home with the same handgun you are accustomed to firing on the range or in the field.

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All Light Load components are coated. They can be installed and removed any number of times with absolutely no effect on the gun's performance or cosmetic appeal.

Light Load for law enforcement.

Any rangemaster or firearms instructor will applaud the value of simulated handgun firing as a training aid for police or military officers. Light Load gives recruits the opportunity to learn the ins and outs of proper gun handling without risk of accidental discharge and resultant injury. Assures complete safety and adds a remarkable dimension of authenticity to classroom firearms instruction.

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Yes, I want to improve my accuracy. Please send me _____ Light Load(s) at the limited time offer price of only **\$49.99** each plus \$1.00 for postage.

Also include _____ pairs of Duracell "n" Batteries @ \$1.49 pair. I have enclosed my check or money order in the amount of \$_____. (Make checks and money orders payable to: "Light Load")

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		13, 19, 65, 66	K	4"
		13, 19, 65, 66	K	6"
	Ruger	New Model Black Hawk		4 5/8"
	Ruger	New Model Black Hawk		6 1/2"
.38	S & W	10, 14, 15, 64, 67	K	2"
		10, 14, 15, 64, 67	K	4"
		10, 14, 15, 64, 67	K	6"
.44	Ruger	New Model Super Black Hawk		7 1/2"

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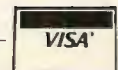
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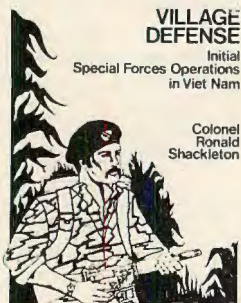
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saw them. Without them, as both Eisenhower and Bradley said, the D-Day invasion of Europe in June 1944 would have failed.

"We should scrupulously maintain that pride of the Airborne, safeguard all the little things that made and sustain it, high among them the privilege of wearing the red beret, which cost our Government not one penny. The Airborne troopers proudly paid for it themselves."

Ridgway concluded his letter by publicly protesting the Army's decision and urging its reversal. We second the general.

AFRICAN SHORTWAVE CORRECTION ...

William J. Haberer of San Antonio, Texas, whose information on shortwave frequencies we printed in our March '79 issue, has called to tell us that Radio South Africa has changed its frequencies for European broadcasts and both time and frequencies to North America. The corrected schedule reads:

RADIO RSA at 2100 to 2150 GMT to Europe on 11900, 15155, and 17780 Khz.

At 0200 to 0250 GMT to North America on 9585, 9610, 11900, and 15220 Khz.

END RHODESIAN SANCTIONS ...

By a margin of almost two to one, Britons say they are in favor of ending economic sanctions against Rhodesia, according to a recent Gallup poll. Wonder why Gallup doesn't conduct a similar poll in the U.S.?

RIGGERS NEEDED ...

The 421st QM Company, HQed in Georgia, needs riggers. All Army Reserve benefits apply. Openings in Transportation, Clerical, Supply, and Airborne [parachute rigger] are available. Contact 421st Quartermaster Company, USAR Center, N. Macon St., Ft. Valley, GA 31030 or call (912) 825-7982 collect or call toll free 1 (800) 431-1234.



Attention: FBI

Looks like a Denver, Colo. Theater is accepting merc applications. When does the investigation begin?

POW-MIAs ...

Memberships are available in the National Human Rights Committee for POW-MIAs. Write to the national headquarters: 86 Hill Street, Walden, New York 12586, for further information.

This organization is extremely active in keeping the issue of MIAs before the American people. On 9 August 1978, Ngo Phi Hung, a Vietnamese refugee, told a Congressional committee that he had personally seen 49 American POWs in Vietnamese prisons from May 1975, to April 1977.

A portion of his statement follows: "About one month after the fall of Saigon I, in the course of my work, had occasion to visit a building and compound in Saigon which had been used formerly by U.S. A.I.D. This first visit was on or about June 5, 1975. The purpose was to pick up the contents of the U.S. A.I.D. office to (be shipped) north. When I presented my documents for this job, I was permitted past the guards and close to the compound.

"At that time I heard voices speaking in English. I recognized what language it was, although I did not know what was being said. I asked some of the guards to tell me who the people were who were speaking in English and they said they were American POWs."

It will be interesting to see what action is taken by the Carter Administration on this matter. You can bet, though, that nothing will be done that would embarrass the North Vietnamese; not with all that oil off their coast.

VET JOBLESSNESS QUERIED ...

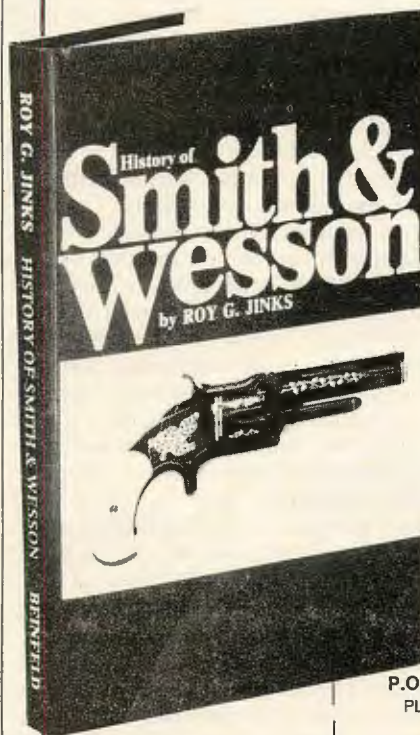
The House Veterans' Affairs Committee is conducting a series of hearings across the U.S. to find out why the unemployment rate among Vietnam veterans remains high. Rep. William G. Hefner (D-NC), acting chairman of the education and training subcommittee, said Newark, NJ, was selected as the site of the first non-Washington, DC, hearing. Those vets who have something to say are encouraged to contact the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

UNESC SANCTIONS ...

The United Nations Economic and Social Council meeting in Geneva has urged all UN members to stop selling oil to South Africa and to halt investments in that country. This resolution was adopted at the final session of the annual meeting of the Council in 1978. Britain, France, West Germany, and the United States cast the only dissenting votes. Nine countries abstained.

Continued on page 81

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This all-new book by renowned Smith & Wesson authority Roy G. Jinks carefully details the evolution of the company and, step-by-step, describes the development of each of their firearms from 1852 through the including 1977. Presented for the first time are facts, production information, and data on variations and modifications of all post-1945 Smith & Wesson firearms, information necessary to every gun collector and dealer.

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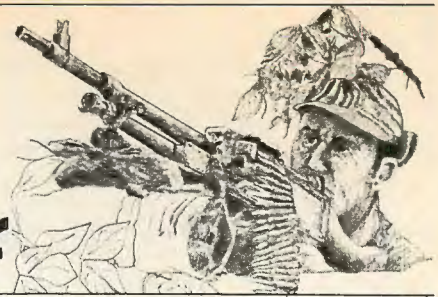
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FULL AUTO Chuck Taylor



WHAT ABOUT THE USE OF SILENCERS ON AUTOMATIC ARMS?

It seems that too many people, some of whom should know better, fail to understand the function of silencers (sound-suppressors) as related to use on automatic weapons.

While it's true that the device *does* indeed lower the decibel level of the weapon, it also does some additional things that seem to be generally overlooked, although they are at least of genuine, if not important, value.

First-suppressor performance in reducing noise levels hinges around two basic theories: 1) the type of suppressor that *attaches/detaches* to/from the muzzle of the weapon, via screw threads, set screws, et al, and 2) the *integral* unit which is quite literally *built into the barrel of the gun*.

Both of these ideas are creditable and of considerable merit, but, as always, they both possess certain drawbacks. I call your attention to the fact that, at this point, one cannot obtain something for nothing. He can, however, minimize his liabilities through careful consideration of what the weapon-suppressor system is *intended* to accomplish in relation to what the potential user *wants* it to accomplish, which isn't as easy as it sounds.

The screw-on type suppressor's main advantage, other than the fact that it does indeed quiet the piece down, is that it is more *versatile* than the permanently attached type. That is, the weapon can either be used in the *suppressed* mode or its normal, *non-suppressed* mode, merely by attaching or detaching the unit. Apart from the fact that a weapon so equipped can be procured in quantity by a military entity at minimum cost, due to its simplicity, let's face it: there *are* times, most of the time, in fact, that *there is simply no need for noise suppression*. To use a suppressed arm when not required is a waste of technology and money, and, of course, the weapon accomplishes the mission for which it was being utilized no better than it does in the unsuppressed mode. It is, though, heavier and bulkier, both drawbacks of serious consideration that are not offset by the gain of any resultant advantages.

The noise level of a weapon equipped with a screw-on unit is generally higher than the gun with an integral unit. This is so because the projectile has already reached its normal velocity *before* it enters

the suppressor, and, if that velocity is supersonic (1088 fps), the "sonic boom" of the projectile *cannot be neutralized*, although the muzzle report of the weapon *can*.

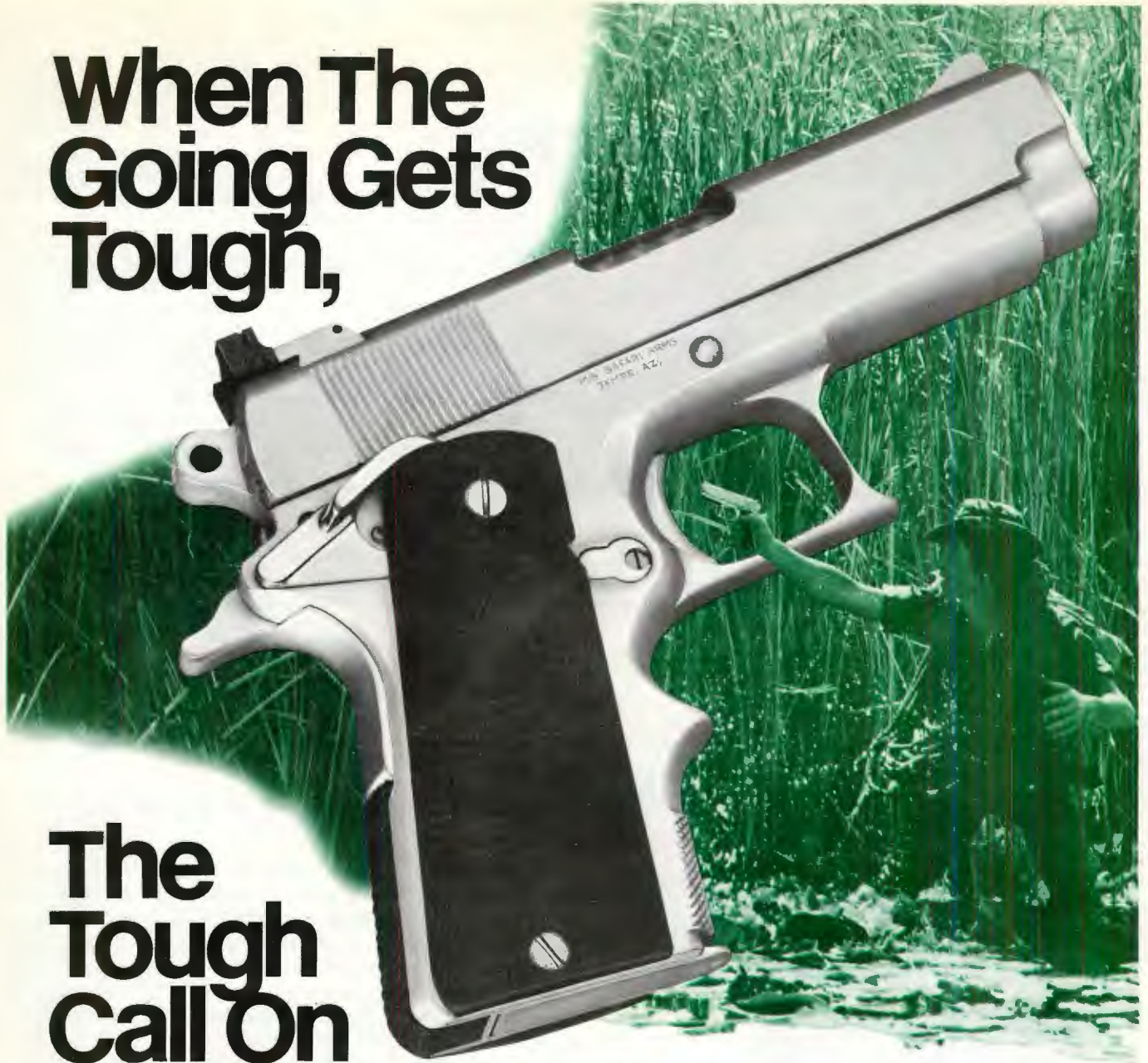
This is not a particular problem with weapons using subsonic ammunition, such as the .45 ACP, for example, but the typical 9mm parabellum military loading usually borders on supersonic velocities. This can cause problems as set forth above, and, although the utility of the weapon system is not totally destroyed, it is certainly *reduced*. This fact should be taken into consideration when cogitating on the choice of what system to use on a specific operation. If the noise level is adequately reduced as far as mission requirements are concerned, then the sonic boom factor may not be a serious problem, and it *is* quite true that one cannot pinpoint the source of *where* shots are coming from by using only the supersonic crack of a projectile as it passes by. On the other hand, it might be desirable for no one to hear *anything*, so who knows, eh?

The *integral* (built-in) suppressor begins porting gases right out of the chamber of the weapon and continues to do so via bleed-off holes located throughout the length of the barrel. This causes the projectile to be subsonic prior to leaving the barrel of the gun, which, in this case is also the suppressor.

This idea seems to work quite well on the 9mm parabellum cartridge, if the Mark II-S STEN, H&K MP5-SD, and Sterling L34-A2 SMGs are any example, and, believe me, these guns are *quiet!* I cannot resist pointing out that all is not roses, however, because the 9mm parabellum is a substandard manstopper at full strength (48 percent effective in standard ball loading), and reducing the velocity of the projectile only aggravates the problem further. Again the adage, "something for nothing," is appropriate. If stopping power is not a major consideration of the mission for which the weapon is to be used, then — no problem. One *can* certainly blow the head off a sentry at pointblank range in the dark with a subsonic 9mm parabellum.

The other major drawback of the *integral* unit is the fact that it is attached permanently to the weapon, thereby limiting it to specialized use only. To place the gun back into the normal mode, depot-level ordnance procedures are required. It certainly cannot be accomplished in the

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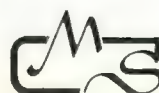
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field, and that is the only level of consideration with which we are concerned.

However, both types of suppressor accomplish the reduction of muzzle blast, virtually eliminate muzzle flash, and reduce felt recoil by as much as 60 percent, depending upon the weapon and caliber involved. These advantages, all major, as far as I'm concerned, should not be overlooked or de-emphasized. After all, we *do* know that reductions in flash discourage detection, and that elimination and/or reduction of muzzle blast results in vastly increased control of the weapon. This means that more hits can be placed on more targets in shorter periods of time, and, make no mistake, this is what the game of automatic weapons is all about!

So, if you have been interested in a suppressed auto-arm, but felt that it was simply not worth the trouble in return for merely being more quiet to shoot, I think you should take another hard look at the problem. It could mean the difference between first and second place in a fight!

JEFF COOPER'S API/GUNSITE NOW OFFERING PRACTICAL RIFLE INSTRUCTION



Jeff Cooper tunes up for new practical rifle course to be held at Gunsite.

Beginning 1 January 1979, Gunsite, owned, operated, and directed by Jeff Cooper, is offering practical rifle training, a field that has long been regarded, even by the military, as a mixture of voodoo and alchemy. Actually, it is a highly diverse and relevant field of weaponry and is a must for anyone who wishes to learn the safe, practical, efficient use of the rifle.

It took Jeff 20 years to make the world understand what he considered to be obvious, if only someone just looked, in the field of combat handgunning. His theories are now proven and considered as fact. Let's hope that it won't take him another 20 to prove that "there is indeed a better way," with the rifle too!

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I can vouch for the relevancy and practicality of Jeff's instruction — as if it needed any testimonials! Anyone who is a serious student of small-arms is doing himself a great injustice if he passes this one up.



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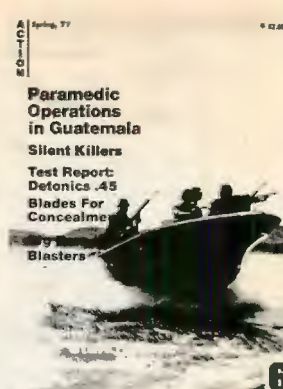
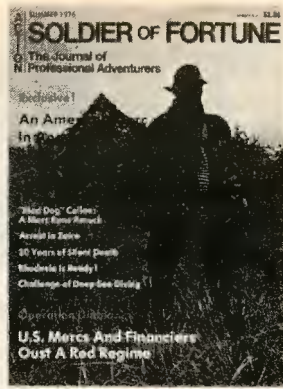
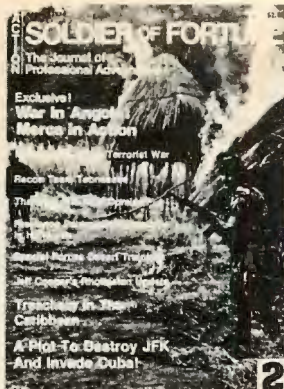
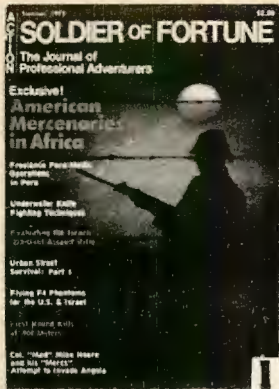
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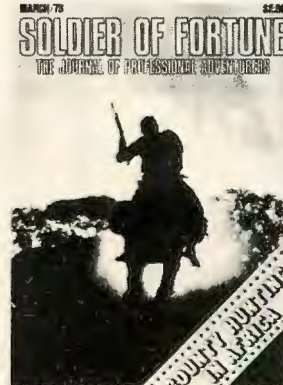
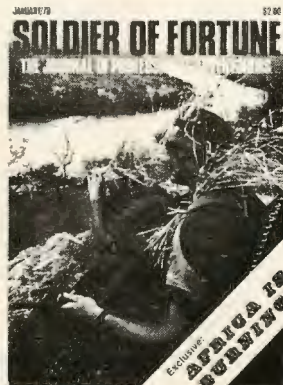
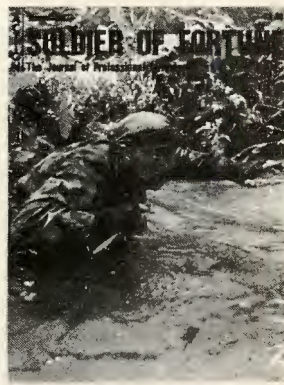
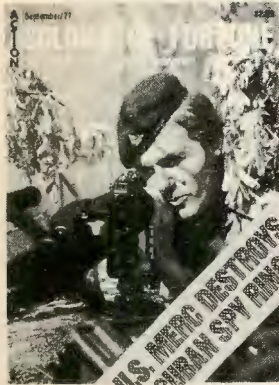
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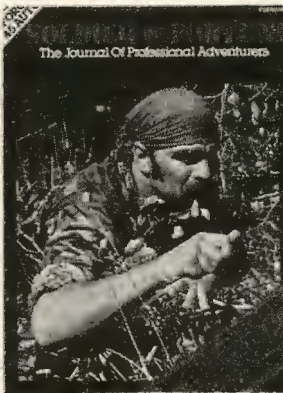
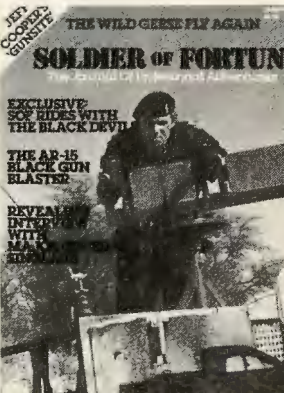
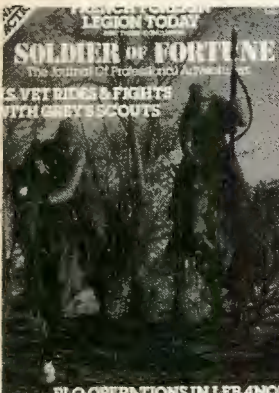
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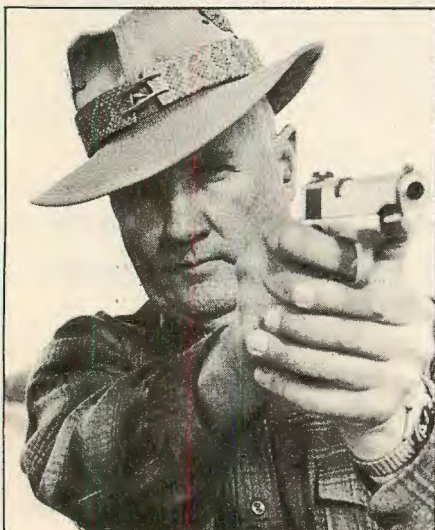
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TERRAIN & SITUATION

Jerry Ahern

THE first pump shotgun to see widespread military use was the 1897 Winchester. Its distinctive, impressive sound was comfort to its user and a deathknell for its enemy. The pump shotgun, although its place in the military is subject to conditions, has a definite role in police work and personal defense. And, as ancillary benefit, it is one of the most versatile sporting arms to be had.

Perhaps the finest pump shotgun, the one by which all others are judged, is the Remington 870 Wingmaster. Dozens of model variations exist, ranging from vent ribs to a 20-inch deer barrel with Improved Cylinder choke and rifled sights. This deer gun is much akin to the Remington 870R, the peerless riot pump.

The 870R comes in three versions, dependent on barrel length. There is an 18-inch with bead sight, a 20-inch with the front bead and the best of the lot, the 20-inch with rifled sights — like the deer gun, only open choke.

With a recoil pad, a Perry ammo sling on the buttstock, and possibly a sling, either the deer gun or the 20-inch rifled sight riot pump makes a versatile sporting and defense weapon. If the use is primarily defensive, the seven-round extension magazine should be added. For sporting use, change to the original magazine tube and plug it to two-shot capacity, the third supposedly for the chamber.

Either gun can handle rifled slugs, double ought buck and standard target loads, as well as special purpose rounds. A plastic folding buttstock is available for the police shotgun and potentially of value under some circumstances, but the standard walnut stock is the best choice for overall use.

The 870 features double action or slide bars and therefore truly reliable slide action. There are two cartridge retainers instead of the usual single retainer. Both factors make up an action which can be counted on. Wood-to-metal fit is excellent, a great factor in durability. The 870 is available in standard 2¾ or three-inch magnum versions at almost any sporting goods or gun dealer. Considering the gun can be used for deer, informal target shooting and self defense, the 870 is one of the finest values around.

SAFARILAND'S new cylinder-sized speed loader for revolvers is one of the

most practical and positive working speed loaders available. The Safariland loader is designed to be simple to operate. This very simplicity is the reason for its reliability.

All that is necessary to operate the Safariland reloader is to insert six cartridges and depress the central axis button and turn it clockwise. To release the cartridges for a combat reload, nothing need be done with the fingers. No buttons to push, no strips to unwind. Simply push the loader against the cylinder. As the cartridges seat in the chambers, the interior of the central axis pin — star-shaped — butts against the star-shaped ejector. Pressure from the ejector pushes the interior portion of the central axis pin rearward and releases the cartridges. Simple as that! Made of a sturdy plastic, the Safariland loader should have a long service life.

Nothing I was able to do to the rear of the central axis pin would make the cartridges release prematurely. Only actually depressing the star-shaped forward portion, as though the revolver's ejector were in action, would release the cartridges.

For more information on Safariland's reloader, write Safariland, 1941 S. Walker Avenue, Monrovia, California 91016, U.S.A.

COLT'S two-inch barreled Lawman MkIII is probably one of the most solidly built handguns in the world. For a snubby, the Colt Lawman is a big handful, but reminiscent of the undercover guns used in the early part of the century. The theory then was that something big and rugged with a short barrel was just the ticket for self-defense. This was the age of the cut-back Colt New Service pistols and similar guns. How true that philosophy is today is not the question. The big Colt snubby exists and is the most truly popular of the Lawman series.

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Continued on page 82

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COMBAT PISTOLCRAFT

Jeff Cooper & Ken Hackathorn

SOF's Combat Pistolcraft column welcomes letters from our readers. If you have a good question or contribution, send it in to Jeff Cooper, P.O. Box 693, Boulder, CO 80306. For a quick, personal reply, include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Q. I have been considering buying a good self-defense pistol. The first ones that come to mind are the Colt .45 Auto, the Browning Hi-Power 9mm, and the not-too-well-known Colt .38 Super Auto. Which do you consider to be the best weapon for general self defense?

I have talked with several people and some say with Browning 9mm you have seven more shots than with a Colt .45. On

the other hand, a .45 has very good knockdown power compared to the 9mm. But then again several law enforcement books I have read say the .38 Super is a good, fast-moving cartridge; it is just that it has not been accepted by today's standard, due to the fact that the .45 has been so popular over many years.

There have been tests published that show that a .38 Super cartridge will penetrate some bulletproof vests, which could be a good advantage in some situations. (Reference: The letter in the July 1978 issue of SOF, pp. 9 and 71.) But there were two vests that the .38 Super did not penetrate. Therefore, a .38 Super would have one advantage over the .45. Do you know of any ammunition that

would be available that would penetrate all such body armor? The letter in the July issue told of some cartridges but these are no longer available.

I notice that you own a .38 Super Star Model, in the January issue. In your personal opinion, how do you rate the .38 Super cartridge? Is it as good a buy as a .45? I have heard that .45 and .38 Super ammunition is very hard to come by in other countries, such as Africa and Europe, where 9mm is mostly used. Is this true?

S.D. Payne
Topeka, Kansas

A. *The first requirement of a defensive sidearm is reliability. The second is stopping power. The third is controllability. Penetration may become important as body armor becomes commonplace in the Age of Aquarius, but it is not so yet — in many cases excessive penetration may be harmful.*

I do not own a Star Super. I do own a Colt Super 38 and a home-grown Super 9. But then I own a whole lot of guns — many of which are simply experimental. One should not infer that I recommend everything I own.

It is certainly true that non-G.I. ammunition can be hard to find in many places abroad. Ammunition needs differ. To learn and to practice one needs a lot. For business — either hunting or fighting — very little. A man who decks something

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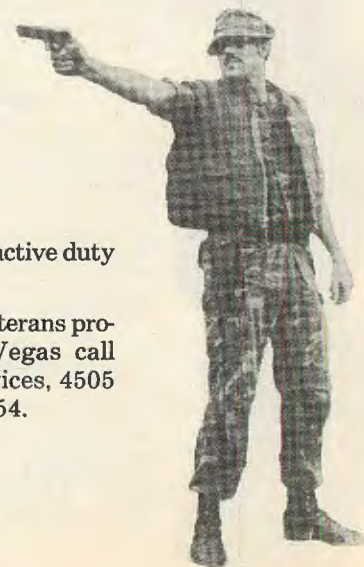
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every time he fires — or even every other time — can go far on a very little. If he is just passing through, ammunition supply is not going to be his big problem.

Q. Colt took a great step forward in upgrading the accuracy of the venerable Government Model with their MK IV/ Series 70 project, but unfortunately didn't include corresponding improvements in human engineering (sights, safeties, etc.).

With all the great strides pistolcraft has taken in the past decade and the positive refinements that have been found to improve the 1911 Colt, one wonders what's wrong with our friends at Hartford. It is absolutely ridiculous to have to add something so basic as decent sights to a weapon like the Government Model Colt, let alone other basic refinements.

It's time for admirers of the Government Model Colt to unite in asking the firearms division of Colt Industries to add some of these long needed refinements to the 1911, and since you are the acknowledged "Dean of Practical Pistolcraft," I further suggest that we unite behind your suggestion for a "factory-ready" Colt Government Model.

What do you think?

R.C. McLaney, Jr.
Mobile, Alabama

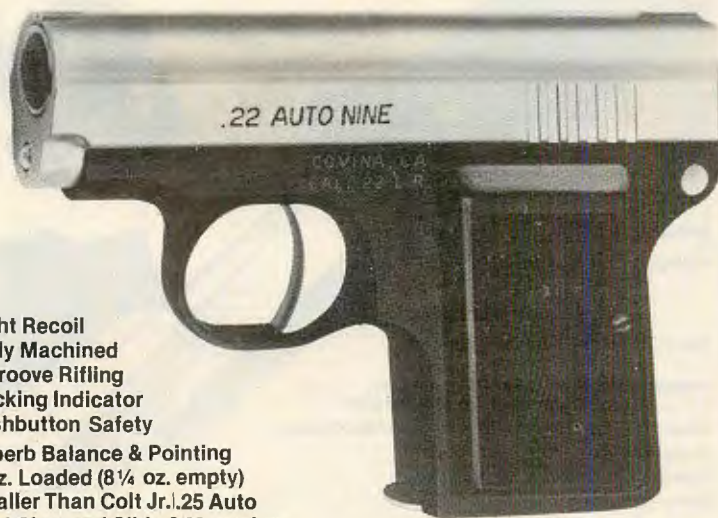
A. Your points regarding the upgrading of the Colt .45 auto pistol are clearly well taken and I agree with the reasonableness of your position.

However, we must remember that industrialists are not in business to upgrade products but to make money. If I, as president of Colt Firearms, were to be approached by a person asking the questions you do, I would say, "Wherein, sir, do we stand to increase our take? I would be pleased to improve the product if you can show me that we will make more money for our stockholders thereby. How many of our customers know or care about the quality of sights we put on? If we retool to put on good sights we will be spending money which will not show in our profit returns."

Here at Gunsite we are contemplating a modification of a standard Colt in the way you suggest in order to provide an over-the-counter pistol — all set to go. Clearly this will cost more money than if the Colt factory did it, but we must accept the fact that only a few people want such a thing. Those who do must be willing to pay the price.

If you wish to make representations to the Colt factory on the subject you suggest, you have my entire support, even to the extent of my participating in the enterprise. But I don't believe that either of us stands to win out in this. I have found over the past decades that the Colt factory management is absolutely uninterested in my activities or my ideas about the improvements on their weapons.

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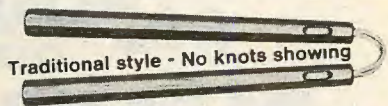


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Q. As a recent subscriber to your magazine, the February 1979 issue was the first that I have received. The magazine is impressive and contains quite a bit of very useful knowledge. The column by Ken Hackathorn was interesting and I would appreciate some comments on the small frame .38 special revolvers and their effectiveness. As a peace officer, I carry a S&W Model 60 revolver with Pachmayr oversize grips. I like the weapon and generally it presents no problem with concealability. It does, however, lack high velocity and is not accurate at great distances. Personally, I do not like semi-automatic pistols and would like any suggestions you might have toward making this weapon more effective as a man-stopper. I do not carry this weapon because I cannot control a large caliber pistol, as Mr. Hackathorn suggests, but rather because it is comfortable to me.

What is your opinion of the exploding cartridges with discriminating impact fuses? Do you feel that the use of these cartridges increases the effect of short barrel weapons? Also what is your opinion of the Hyrda-Shok Scorpion cartridge? We have attempted to locate and purchase some of these cartridges but have been unable to do so. Do you have an address for the company that manufactures the Hydra-Shok Scorpion round and do you know if they are still making these rounds?

Thanks,
 Charles L. Bloss, Jr.
 Deputy Sheriff
 Le Compton, Kansas

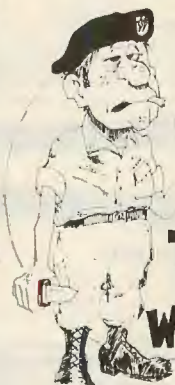
A. The problem of making a small caliber weapon into a man-stopper is difficult. The basic component of the ability of a cartridge to terminate a fight is the momentum of its projectile, which is the product of its mass times its velocity. There just isn't enough momentum available in the 38 Special to make it a reliable man-stopper, though obviously you can load the piece up to much better performance than you are getting in service ammunition.

You can not increase momentum by messing around with bullet construction. It is true that bullet configuration and material can serve to increase stopping power, but only if there is sufficient momentum to begin with. If you have a cartridge which is excessively powerful — one that will penetrate completely in every case and expend much of its energy beyond the target — you may increase its stopping power by improving the configuration of the bullet. Up to that point search for expansion or disruption is a losing battle. You may get it — at the loss of penetration — and then you do not have a reliable cartridge.

It is possible to jack up a 38 Special to the status of the venerable 38/44 round. This definitely increases its stopping potential. One does this by loading a semi-

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wadcutter lead bullet of 160 grains, or thereabouts, up to a velocity exceeding 1,100 feet per second (4"). Such loads are very hard on the weapon and I do not recommend them for steady use. As a matter of fact, I do not recommend them at all except as an emergency device for a person who is stuck with a 38 Special.

This month top-ranked combat pistol shooter Ken Hackathorn discusses general purpose defensive sidearms, stainless steel .45 receivers, and combat pistol recoil springs. Hackathorn, who has competed in both national and international combat pistol meets, is a graduate of Jeff Cooper's American Pistol Institute at Gunsite, Arizona. In the Army, he taught light weaponry as a specialist-instructor for the Special Forces. His police work includes experience as a deputy sheriff and instruction of police firearms courses.

GENERAL purpose defensive sidearms are designed to serve many duties. They should be usable as duty arms as well as for concealment in plain street clothes. This large area covers a multitude of pistols and revolvers on the market today. To pick a pistol that will serve a policeman or soldier for duty wear in a hip holster is not difficult. Likewise,



Author's personal "Carry Gun," a slightly modified .45 Commander.

the choice of concealment handguns is made easy by the large selection to choose from. A general-purpose sidearm must be able to do both of these things. In fact, a handgun of this category must do many things well, yet need not be designed to be specialized for a specific need. Thus, it may be a poor choice to enter a target

match with, or even carry under a sport shirt on a warm summer evening.

Since I own a number of sidearms, the choice for one gun to carry day in and day out is not an easy one. For competition and general practice sessions, my custom-worked-over Government Model Colt .45 autos serve very well. In this form, a full-



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house Swenson or Hoag Combat .45 provides all that I could demand from such fine quality pistols. These guns offer top notch accuracy, excellent triggers, and luxury touches that makes packing a pistol of this type a matter of pride. The demand for pistols worked over by big name pistolsmiths has left most of the shops like Swenson, Hoag, King, and Pachmayr with a backlog of work that can take anywhere from nine months to four years, depending upon the choice of gunsmith. However, for those looking for a general-purpose sidearm that will serve many functions well, then the choice that I have made may serve you also.

The Colt .45ACP Commander pistol is the gun I carry daily. It is rather Spartan in detail compared to the other .45 autos that I use. Only the modifications necessary for functional use have been made. Over the past dozen years I have owned many of these lightweight autos. The one I have now is a common companion. It provides the security I desire in a defensive sidearm. Carrying anything smaller leaves me feeling slightly unarmed.

Jeff Cooper has always given the advice to stick with only those modifications that are necessary to make the pistol satisfactory to you. The closer you are to the stock piece, the better off you are if necessity forces you to use someone else's pistol. Reliance on too many gadgets can hurt if you don't have your own pistol available.

I took my out-of-the-box Commander and set out to make it my ideal carry gun. Accuracy is more than acceptable for the purpose of a defensive sidearm. The only inside work was the throating of the barrel. A few careful minutes with a Dremel tool solved that problem. The current Colt Mk IV Series 70 guns come from the Hartford plant throated, but the Combat Commander and Alloy frame Commander don't receive this touch from the factory. Nonetheless, the feeding system on my throated Commander will now chamber empty cases from proper magazines.

For serious social work, I consider only fixed sights. The high fixed Micro rear was installed with a quick draw ramp front. When my pistol was modified, the King-Tappan fixed sights were not available. Had they been offered, I would have chosen them without question. Once fixed sights are zeroed, there is nothing to shoot loose or get knocked out of adjustment. These high fixed sights give a fast, sharp sight picture for quick shooting situations.

A real rarity for Colt Firearms, my gun came out of the box with a clean 4½-pound trigger pull, although the odds of getting a really fine trigger from a box-grade Government Model or Commander has to be an all time long shot. Colt has people who can produce good triggers, for the Gold Cups normally show fine pulls.

I installed one of Jim Hoag's long skeletonized triggers, mostly for looks,

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but also to assist in placement of the finger on the trigger. The mainspring housing was checkered and a pair of Pachmayr Combat Model Signature grips were installed.

Since holster wear had already worn the anodizing from the sharp corners of the frame, I decided to have the frame silver anodized so the aluminum base metal would not appear so readily as a result of holster wear. The completed gun is a comfortable pistol to carry. Whether in a Sparks Summer Special or Alessi inside-pants holster, the alloy Commander .45 is a confident gun to stake your life on.

The Commander is 3/4-inch shorter than the standard government model. It weighs only 26 1/2 ounces compared to 39 for the full-size Mk IV. The result is a pistol that is easier to carry, but somewhat more difficult to shoot. The lighter weight, plus increased slide inertia, causes a much sharper recoil with the LW Commander. This can be bad for those that are new to pistolcraft or fail to learn proper pistol technique.

I find the Commander handles much like a M19 Combat Magnum when firing full house .357 ammo. With practice, shot-to-shot recovery is better than the M19. The Commander is currently only offered in .45acp. The 9mm Parabellum and .38 Super calibers have been dropped from production. The frame and mainspring housing are made of high tensile aluminum alloy (7075) so that weight reduction is considerable. The short-coming, however, is that alloy receivers wear out much more quickly than the steel counterpart.

My experience has shown these alloy Commanders develop stress cracks in the frame at the 5000 to 6000-round mark. They will continue to shoot long after the stress cracks show up. I have one friend whose Commander has a vertical crack from the slide stop pin hole in the frame to the slide rails. The gun will still shoot a ragged hole in the ace of spades at 25 feet. He shoots it only rarely, as he desires to keep it in service for years to come.

So, shoot the Commander to stay in tune, but leave it at home if you plan to shoot hundreds of rounds each time you visit the range. Let's face it, few people fire more than a 1000 rounds of pistol ammo in a lifetime.

The exception are those that compete in pistol matches and police or security people that fire up training ammo provided for qualification. The weapon in these cases is usually a duty type sidearm that will stand 30,000 rounds of ammo and still have plenty of service left in it.

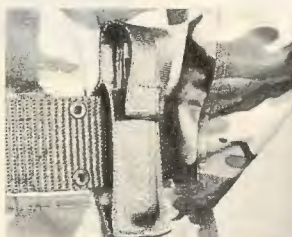
So, a short round life is not a major factor to worry over in a general-purpose carry gun. If you feel that it is more than you can tolerate, then I suggest the steel-frame Combat Commander. It compromises light weight, yet the steel frame will last a long time if this pistol is to serve

Continued on page 86

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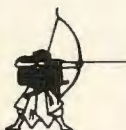
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STEELE ON POLICE WEAPONRY

David E. Steele



HANDCUFFING AND CONTROL TECHNIQUES

A number of books have been written on police use of firearms, while only a few are available on police baton and unarmed restraint techniques. This is in spite of the fact that many policemen do not use firearms in their entire careers, while some street cops use their hands and batons virtually every day. Likewise most American police departments require periodic qualification tests with the sidearm, while baton technique is rarely, if ever, tested after the academy, unlike the Tokyo police department where weekly baton practice is the rule. Perhaps the greater interest

in firearms here is due to their intrinsic mechanical complexity and their death-dealing power. The baton, in contrast, is ugly, simple, and mundane; its power is totally dependent on technique.

Among the few books available on police unarmed restraint are the following: *Handbook of Self-Defense for Law Enforcement Officers* by Jahn Martone, *Kill or Get Killed* by Rex Applegate, *Defense Tactics for Law Enforcement* by Bruce Tegner, and *Police Weaponless Control and Defense Technique* by Robert Koga and John Nelson. Koga and Nelson's book is probably the most definitive. Koga was the hand-to-hand combat in-

structor for LAPD; his methods, like all law enforcement techniques, are eclectic, drawing on a number of Oriental martial arts and western practices, but more than other authors Koga has a sense of system.

Koga's first premise is that the role of the policeman, as assigned by the governing agency and interpreted by the courts, is primarily a defensive one. The policeman necessarily *responds* to situations; he does not (or should not) *provoke* them. Those of us who have dealt firsthand with violent criminals know how easy it is to want to punish rather than merely apprehend or control. Koga stresses that the law enforcement or corrections officer must learn to control his own prejudices (usually racial or ethnic) and his emotions (primarily his sense of personal dignity or masculinity) before his responses to tactical situations will become consistently professional.

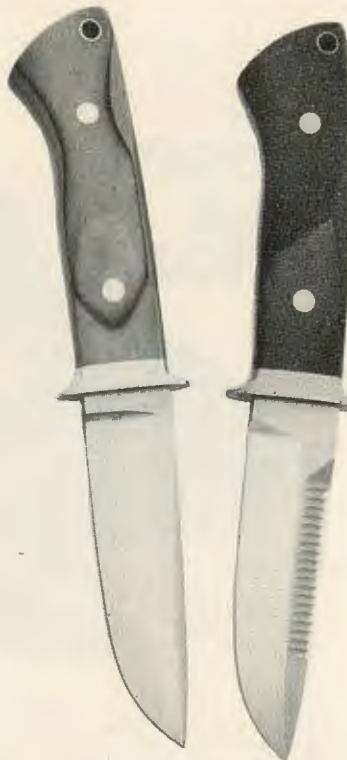
For example, a white officer attempting to control a powerfully-built black suspect who confronts him with the words, "You chickenshit faggot, you too scared to take me alone, you skinny motherfucker," is quite likely to respond prejudicially. The officer, in one sentence, has been called a coward, a homosexual, a weakling, and a pervert; yet the courts consider no amount of "mere words" to be justification for assault. So the officer must remind himself that it is his job to control the

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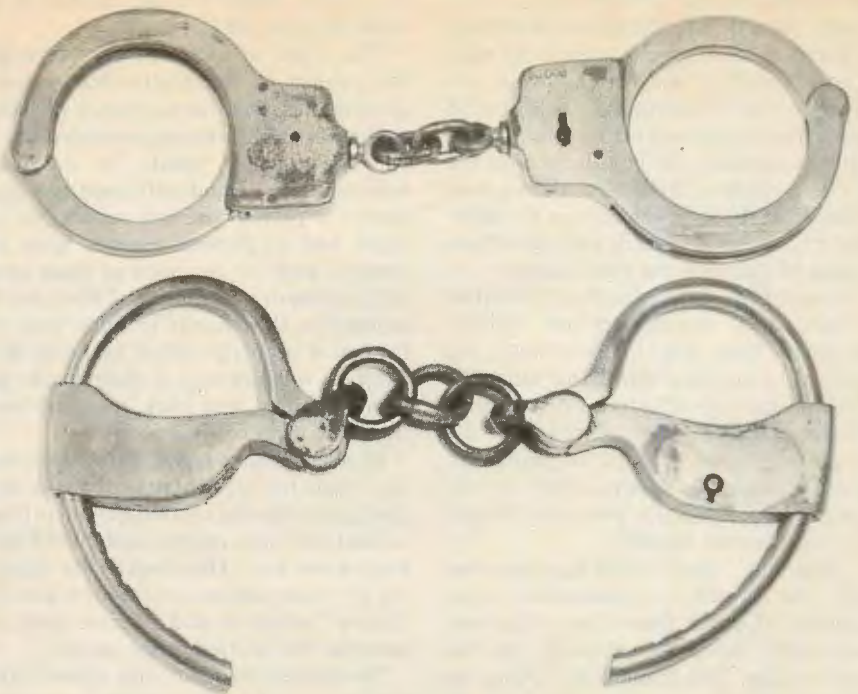
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situation, to keep it from escalating, not to singlehandedly “put the savages in their place.”

The potentially explosive situation just mentioned may best be handled on a purely verbal basis, e.g., “Be cool, man. Nobody be shuckin’ you. Just come along now, and let the public defender handle your problems at the station.” This way you have temporarily allayed his fears of humiliation, assault, and lengthy police interrogation.

As Koga stresses, “Arrest is an emotional problem as well as a physical one.” Once the suspect is in cuffs his case can be handled routinely, without any side trips to the hospital, lengthy reports, or visits to Internal Affairs. Some street policemen become so adept at “rapping” that they rarely ever have to resort to force. For example, one Los Angeles policeman I knew would never tell a drunk that he was taking him to the station: he would tell him he was taking him home, the drunk would slump comfortably in the car seat, and when he woke up he would be at the station where the sheer number of officers would prevent resistance.

The ability to “relate” (an overused term dating from the Kennedy years) to different groups of people, especially to criminal subcultures, is an art that is only acquired after long experience. The young patrolman or prison guard may find him-



Top: A set of Peerless cuffs from 1915. Below: A pre-1900 set of adjustable cuffs used quite often on the American frontier. (LAPD Archives, Judith Kosbau, historian. Author's photo.)

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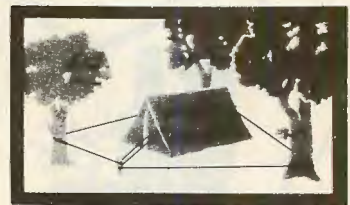
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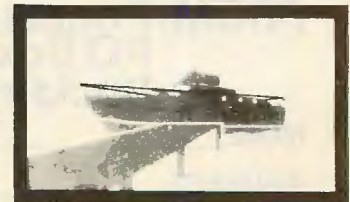
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self in many violent confrontations which in later years he will realize resulted entirely from his own failure to find the right words. An officer may often have to use an argot that to himself sounds foolish and affected in order to communicate with his clientele. To be effective on the southern border a Border Patrolman must speak Spanish; to be effective in city ghettos, prisons, and juvenile halls an officer should be fluent in the local dialect.

If persuasion fails, or if there is no time to talk, or if the subject has initiated violence, then the officer must use physical means to control the situation. These means may include: a show of force (several officers), unarmed restraint, use of the baton or MACE, or, as a last resort, the use of firearms. Here we will discuss some principles and a few techniques of unarmed restraint.

"Restraint" means what the name implies: the subject is "controlled," not punished. Courts frown on offenders, particularly juveniles, showing up for their hearings "black and blue." Also, the government, i.e., the taxpayers, has to pay for medical treatment of punched-out suspects, not to mention the cost of police brutality lawsuits. Finally, a subject is likely to develop his ideas about police professionalism from such contacts; he may try to kill the next policeman who ac-

costs him, based on the treatment he received from the last.

The object of most restraints is to put the subject in handcuffs. Some police departments even have a policy of handcuffing suspects who are wounded or, to all appearances, dead, in order to minimize risk. Handcuffs have two purposes: to prevent or limit assaults on officers and to prevent escape. Most offenders, with the exception of those trained in *savate* or in the Oriental martial arts, depend on their hands to fight; they are helpless if properly cuffed. Likewise most subjects will not run if their hands are secured behind their back, since this position puts them off balance.

Handcuffs have come a long way since the "shackles" of the last century. A hundred years ago the common handcuff had a fixed-size jaw, opened and closed by a twist-screw key. The shackle was closed, the key tightened and removed. It was this "screw" which is said to have given its name to the modern prison guard.

The modern handcuff has a small turnkey and an adjustable ratchet, which will adjust the cuff automatically to fit the wrist of all but a small child or tiny woman. It is the adjustable ratchet which is the major improvement of the modern cuff. Of course, the size of the cuff depends on the average size of male adults

in this society. In Taiwan, for contrast, Professor Ni at the Central Police College produces a cuff which adjusts further down to provide for the "pencil wrists" and small hands of many Orientals.

A number of companies have produced handcuffs for use in this country, including companies in Spain and Japan. The standard for the industry, however, has been set by Smith & Wesson and Peerless. According to some, the S&W cuffs are harder to pick, but the Peerless cuffs go on faster. I have not been able to confirm that one type of cuff is easier to pick: handcuffs are meant to be a temporary restraint only; given enough time and inadequate police supervision a suitably experienced "criminoid" could pick practically any cuff. As far as speed is concerned, a new Peerless cuff will invariably ratchet faster than an S&W, though a Smith cuff can easily be worked in and lubricated with WD-40 or graphite to slide more smoothly.

What we are really talking about is the capacity of a cuff to go on the wrist merely by pressing or "slapping": the closed cuff is pressed against the wrist, causing its jaw to flip over and around, locking onto the wrist. Usually this must be done against the top or bottom of the wrist, the thickness of the sides of the wrist impeding free movement of the jaw. If the



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ratchet is stiff the cuff cannot be "slapped" on, or, if tried, the technique will cause unnecessary pain to the subject as the metal is banged against his wristbone. It is for this reason that certain juvenile facilities require detention officers to manually open the cuff, then carefully place it around the minor's wrists. This tedious technique can waste valuable time if used during a violent restraint, as distinguished from a routine movement of juveniles from one institution to another. Anyone who has handled juveniles knows that they will complain loudly about any imagined "mistreatment," so the careful, gentle placing of the cuff for routine movements, including the use of the double lock to prevent further tightening of the ratchet, makes sense. For use in the field or for violent institutional restraints a fast-ratchet cuff is to be preferred: a good cuff can be pressed on (a safer technique than slapping) with one hand while the other is used to apply an armlock or other control technique.

The big problem, still to be solved, with the modern cuff is the lock. The ratchet can be picked on some cuffs, but most picking is done on the keyhole — not to mention the general availability and easy concealability of cuff keys among the general public (one can be purchased for about 75¢). Smith & Wesson, among others, produces a special maximum security cuff with special key, but this is rarely used except for jail or prison transfers.

Conventional S&W and Peerless cuffs, as well as several other brands, work off the same key — this facilitates movement since a jailer or other officer is not likely to find himself unable to open a prisoner's cuffs, but it does lessen security. Also, the keyhole and double-lock pinhole are hard to find in a hurry or in the dark. A Los Angeles maker has recently marketed a cuff key with a longer, fatter, stippled handle for better, faster operation, but the problem is still there.

The cuffs used by most officers in the Los Angeles area are the Smith & Wesson 8-5/8-ounce nickel steel cuff, and the 10-ounce Peerless nickel steel cuff. S&W also makes a blued version, but the nickel finish lasts longer with better protection. Peerless also makes a lightweight seven-ounce cuff for a slightly higher price; personally I have never found the 10-ounce model to be a burden.

If the cuffs are personally owned by the officer, he should have his name and ID number engraved on them to prevent their getting lost during prisoner processing. Many police officers carry at least two sets of cuffs for regular patrol, since multiple arrests are not uncommon. In addition officers on riot duty may carry a half dozen "Flex-cufs" in their hat: these are metal-impregnated, flexible plastic restraints. With Flex-cufs the prisoners' wrists are overlapped and the cuffs are looped over them like a lasso and drawn tight. The officer's name and booking information can



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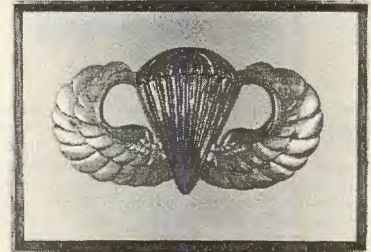
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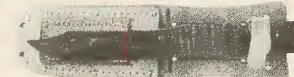
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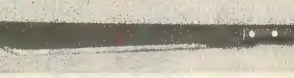
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be written on the plastic. The cuffs are then cut off at the station. One problem with Flex-cuffs, however, is that they tend to cut off circulation in the hands; therefore the prisoner should be processed as soon as possible to avoid charges of maltreatment.

Koga and Nelson's book does an admirable job of describing restraint techniques for use by street policemen. Tegner's book has some excellent tips for handling adult prison inmates. Applegate and Martone give some very useful information on cuffing more than one subject. All of these books should be in the officer's library, and I will not repeat all their ideas here. Instead I will describe some techniques for handling juvenile offenders, a subject rarely, if ever, given attention.

Tegner says that if a technique is basically humane it is as suitable for women and juveniles as for adult male prisoners. I agree. Some juvenile halls and detention facilities give no restraint training to their officers, perhaps operating on the assumption that he can always accomplish his goals by persuasion or a firm grip on the shoulder. The fact is that many male juvenile offenders are as large as adult prisoners and considerably more prone to impulsive behavior. Some facilities now allow the use of Chemical MACE, while others, especially those which handle the juvenile prior to adjudication and disposition hearings (equivalent to trial and sentencing procedures in adult court), allow officers to use only their hands for restraining a minor.

Imagine for a moment that you are trying to control the behavior of a violent 17-year-old, 220-pound youth of comparatively low intelligence. Then imagine that the administration has told you that you are not allowed to use MACE, a baton, rubber sap (sometimes used in prisons, since it is far less lethal than the lead-loaded variety), an iron claw come-along device, or any other weapon (including handcuffs used as brass knuckles); further, the administration has told you that you may not punch, kick, or choke in order to restrain anyone. So what do you do when this young man decides he would rather punch than obey you? The answer is that you should have thought of that sooner.

Usually juveniles, unlike adult prisoners, will give some kind of warning before they "go off." An inmate at San Quentin might smile and look obsequious until he is close enough to "shank" you, while a juvenile will usually become argumentative or abusive, appear frustrated (sometimes to the point of tears), start to clench and unclench his fists, or otherwise "telegraph his moves." Further, a juvenile, even if he knows something of the martial arts, will most commonly begin his fights with a round-house fist blow or a headlock — two moves which are easily countered. Ap-

parently there is a powerful adolescent motivation to use fighting techniques which are seen by his peer group as fair or honorable, i.e., what John Wayne would do, not what Bruce Lee would do.

A restraint which results in no injury to the minor or to the officer, the optimum condition, will often require more than one officer to effect. The first officer, the one against whom the minor's attack is directed, must avoid the blow and begin making the restraint while another officer assists. Single combat between a minor and a detention officer is usually unnecessary (although with staff shortages brought on by economy measures this is becoming less true) and inefficient with substantially greater risk of injury on both sides. Two officers bracketing the "ward" between them are usually enough to bring him under control, with perhaps a third to put on cuffs if required: more than three will get in each other's way; if it takes more than three to put a kid down then they are the wrong three for the job. Invariably there will be more inmates than staff around at any particular time, but rarely will prisoners band together against staff (except in the case of riot or mass escape attempt) whereas staff, to one degree or another, have learned to assist each other in violent situations. In fact, the worst condition that can exist in a detention facility is when morale among officers is so low that they do not back each other up.

Given four staff available, the optimum restraint would proceed as follows. One staff member stays out of the conflict to keep an eye on other wards, to lock them down if necessary. Two staff members, seeing that one minor is about to attack another (or is creating some other dangerous disruption), work around to each side and slightly to his rear. At the same instant they each grab a wrist and bend it behind the minor's back, forcing him to the ground or pressing him against a wall if necessary to maintain leverage. A third staff member can then press on the cuffs in the manner described before.

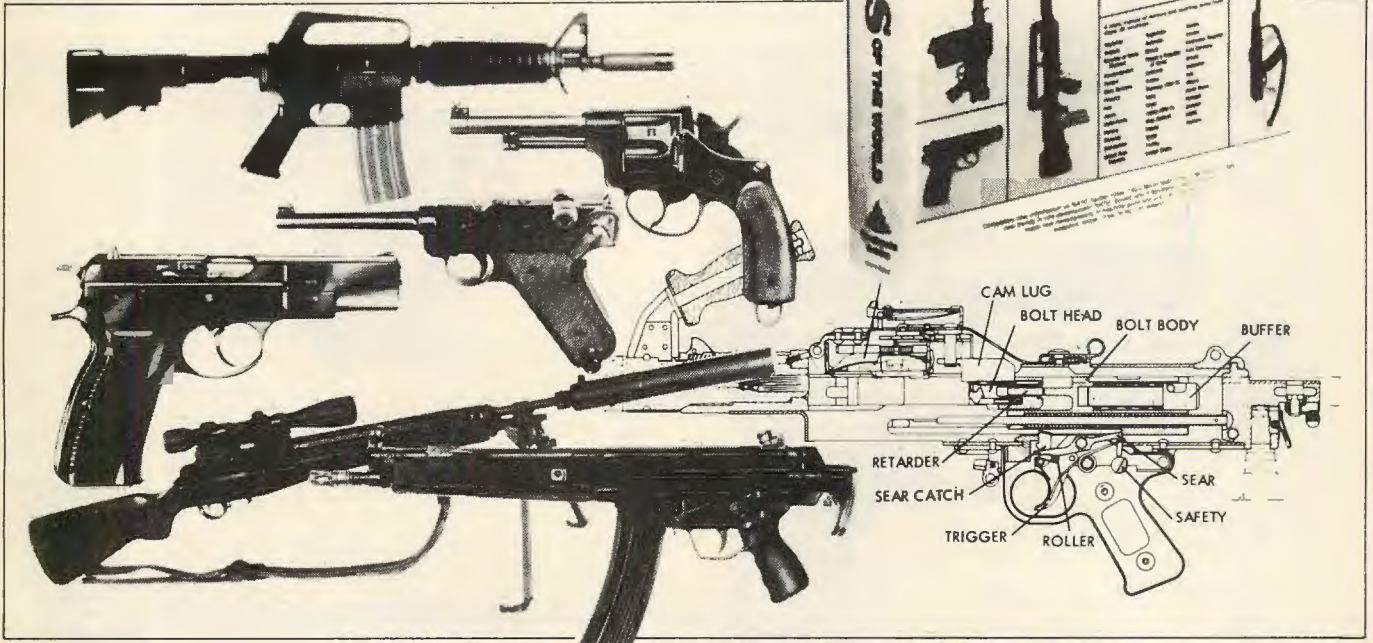
Obviously, many restraints will not go as smoothly as the one mentioned. There will certainly be times when there will be only one officer, or at most two, available to take care of situations that really require three or four. In these circumstances an officer's physical skill, verbal ability, and judgment will be tested to the utmost. The officer's main advantage is not this size, since many juveniles are larger than most adults, but his greater emotional control and his ability to "think on his feet," to pick the right tactical moves which will give him an edge.

In the next issue of SOF, David Steele will evaluate effective restraint techniques which seem to be of the greatest value in controlling juvenile offenders.



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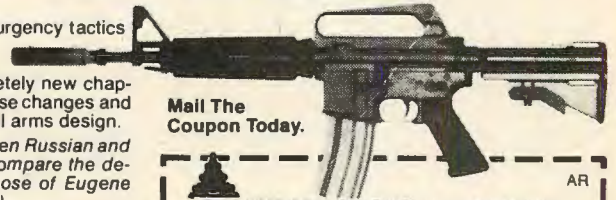
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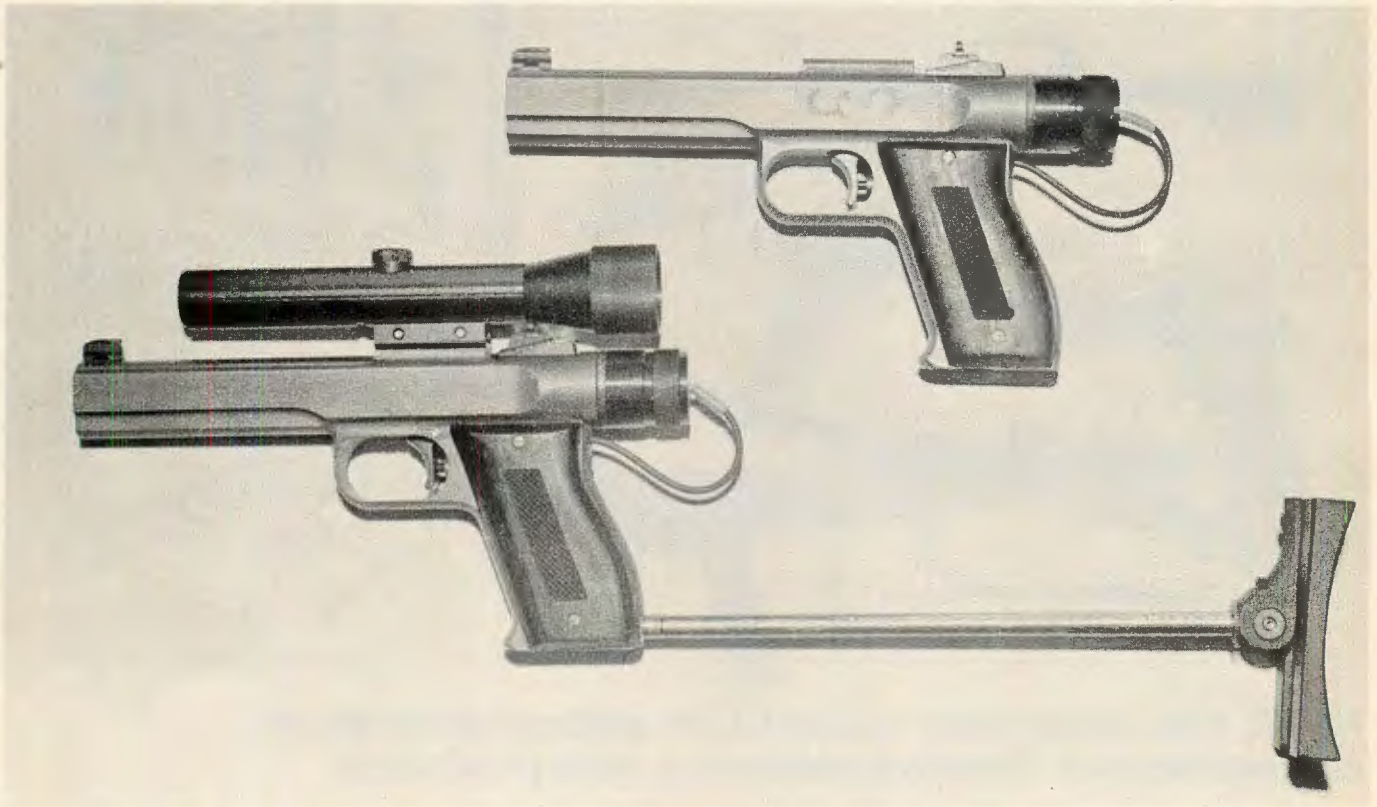
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Nondiscernible Microbiotic Inoculator **The Sentry & The Dog Revisited**

by William Schwabe



Two exotic members of the Army's M-1 Dart Launcher family, especially constructed for the Central Intelligence Agency. Devices shown were used for the temporary incapacitation of vicious guard dogs. Weapon at bottom was displayed by former Agency Director, William E. Colby, on

national television during Church Committee hearings, but without its detachable shoulder stock. Note use of Bushnell "Phantom" scope; darkly humorous when one considers the weapon was for "spooks." Photo courtesy Edgewood Arsenal/CIA Public Affairs Office.

Ever since the opening engagements of the World War of 1939 to 1945, British and American intelligence and special warfare officers have devoted considerable effort to researching the most efficacious means of incapacitating — temporarily or otherwise — a sentry and his dog.

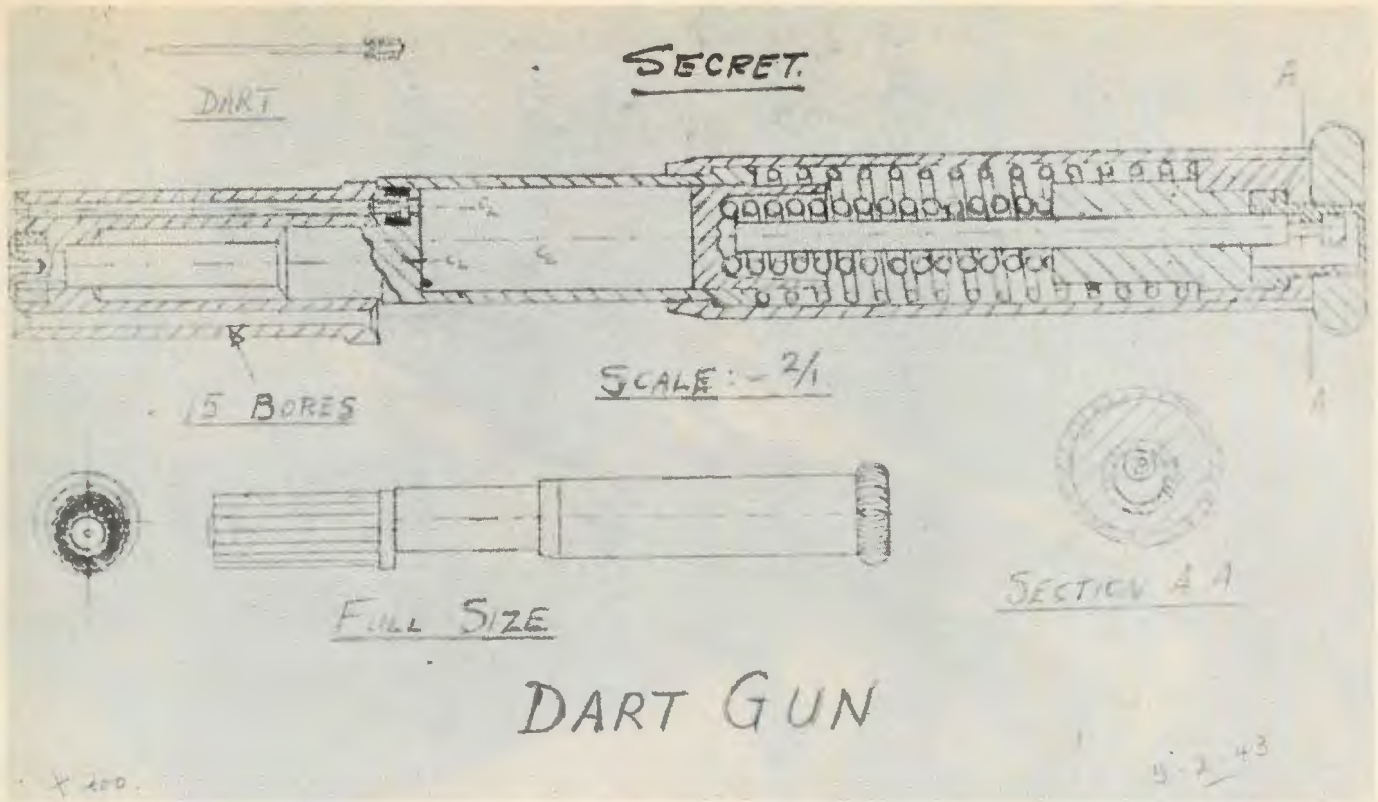
The scenario typically runs something like this: there is an enclosure guarded by a sentry and his dog. The objective is to gain access to this enclosure without raising an alarm. Under ordinary circumstances, a fighting knife would do nicely, but how to employ close-combat weapons with a dog nearby? There are other nuances: if the sentry dies before the dog, the dog will bark; if the dog dies before the sentry, the sentry will shoot. Covert information collection activities offer additional complications: one may wish to

enter the enclosure surreptitiously, and leave no trace of one's passing. If the enclosure is guarded solely by dogs, how to put them temporarily to sleep?

The sentry-and-dog scenario, in all its several aspects, is the reason why, in the 1940s, British Special Operations Executive (SOE) and American Office of Strategic Services (OSS) technological support groups developed such devices as the sound-suppressed .22 caliber High-Standard self-loading pistol, the varieties of miniature cross-bows, and curious phonograph-needle launchers disguised as fountain pens. It is also the reason why, some 25 years later, the Special Operations Division (SOD) of the U.S. Army Biological Laboratory, in a lavish display of money and technology, devised an exotic item known as the non-discernible microbioinoculator.

The term "non-discernible microbioinoculator" refers to a subminiature projectile, used to deliver biological warfare (BW) or chemical warfare (CW) agents to human or animal targets by imperceptible inoculation; subcutaneously, intramuscularly, and silently. Such projectiles are sometimes also known as MOPs, or "micro-organism projectiles."

One form of NDMBI/MOP delivery system, type classified in Army literature as the M-1 system, involves the use of a battery-powered dissemination device, known as the M-1 Dart Launcher. Two M-1 launchers are pictured in the accompanying photograph. This dissemination device is deemed accurate at ranges to 250 feet, and is practically inaudible. One NDMBI compatible with this device is spherical, .015 inch in diameter, carries a



This device was designed to fire a phonograph needle, and was meant for use as a harassing weapon in occupied France. British in origin, the work of a little-known branch of a lesser-known section of the Military Intelligence Directorate, circa 1943, the device could be made lethal by

coating the projectile with toxin or bacteria; something the British could never bring themselves to do. The device was fielded in extremely limited quantities for a brief period, then suddenly withdrawn. Photo courtesy of Elek Books, London.

.5 mgm load, and is ballistically stable at ranges to 50 feet.

When the trigger on the M-1 is pressed, it completes a circuit between batteries in the grip and a solenoid-like coil at the rear of the barrel. Simply put, the NDMBI is propelled by means of the electromagnetic field generated within the coil. On impact, the entry of the projectile feels something like a mosquito's sting, if it is felt at all.

The projectile itself is cartridge-mounted, and fashioned of platinum or, alternately, platinum-plated. Platinum is necessary to prevent bonding between the projectile and its cartridge when the former is coated with shellfish toxin.

The M-1 system was originally developed in the 1960s, for use by the Special

Forces. Work was performed at Fort Detrick and Edgewood Arsenal, under the direction of a project engineer named Senseney. In approximately 1967, Senseney was approached by the Central Intelligence Agency, acting under the authority of a memorandum of agreement originating in May 1952, between CIA and the Army Chief Chemical Officer. This memorandum of agreement permitted the CIA to call upon the facilities of the Army Biological Laboratory for research and development purposes. Contrary to popular belief, the CIA's own laboratories are rather limited, and are used primarily to conceal or disguise the paraphernalia of the spy trade by means of special packaging; outside arrangements, such as that with the Army, are

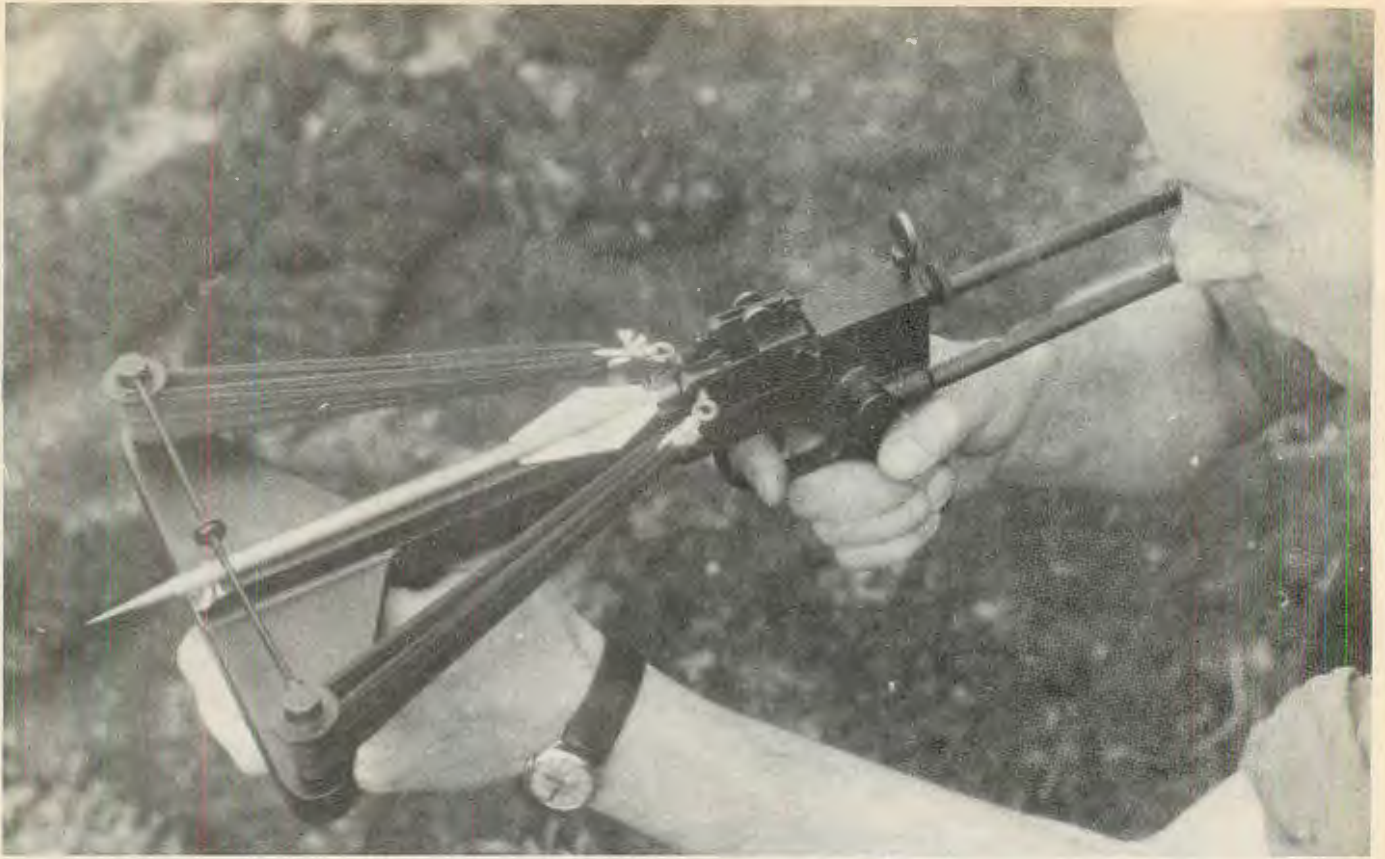
therefore necessary and considered perfectly normal.

What the CIA desired, and what Senseney and the Army were subsequently able to supply, was a M-1 modification designed for use against dogs. Thus the launcher shown in the accompanying photograph was born. The basic projectile was increased in size to approximately that of a .22, and loaded with a chemical compound known as 4640. Some 50 systems were manufactured for the CIA, and subsequently returned having been expended. Records of the CIA's so-called Clandestine Services indicate that the devices were used in operations in Southeast Asia, targeted against watch dogs guarding an enemy compound, and for testing and evaluation purposes.

The DeLisle Carbine. A sound-suppressed counter-sentry weapon in .45 ACP by way of a much modified SMLE. An extremely effective design, the DeLisle saw service in the Malaysian Emergency, in Africa and the

Middle East, and one or two even made their way to Vietnam. British in origin, the DeLisle was air-dropped to the French Resistance. Photo courtesy the Imperial War Museum.





Above: An early version of the "William Tell," test fired "somewhere in the Commonwealth" by a member of the Office of Strategic Services on detached service. This device, used for the elimination of enemy sentries and dogs, was actually fielded in the Pacific Theater. It was, however, found to be unsuitable due to the distinctive "twang" of the elastic bands. Photo courtesy Anybody's Archives Indeed.

Below: An experimental special operations weapon, highly classified in its day. This sound-suppressed STEN was fitted with an infrared-light unit, and a telescopically-assisted infrared receiving unit. Device shown during field tests north of London, circa 1942. Photo courtesy the Imperial War Museum.



In September 1975, a tempest erupted over the existence of BW/CW dissemination devices, and former Director of Central Intelligence William E. Colby was forced to display one of the Agency's launchers at a hearing before the Senate Select Committee to Study Governmental Operations with Respect to Intelligence Activities. Senseney was recalled from a temporary assignment in the United Kingdom, and offered testimony based on his recollections of his own and the CIA's involvement in the M-1 program. As a result of the furor over such devices, much of the M-1 hardware and all of the more exotic toxins were ordered destroyed. This destruction was accomplished in 1975; remaining hardware was placed in storage at an undisclosed location near Kansas City, Missouri, with a representative collection being made up into a travelling display unit. This display unit was used for familiarization purposes by a number of federal agencies, U.S. Customs and the FBI among them, in order to educate counterintelligence personnel in the intricacies of silencing a sentry and a dog.

An interesting footnote to the NDMBI story was provided in the fall of 1978, when Bulgarian emigres living in Great Britain were murdered under mysterious circumstances by means of a spherical, platinum-plated projectile fired from an umbrella.

It would seem that the Church Committee, among its other accomplishments, provided a technology transfer function for the killers of the Bulgarians. According to informed sources, the level of expertise evident in the NDMBI's employed in Great Britain was directly related to the level of information generated by the aforementioned Church Committee hearings in September 1975. This assumption gathers credence when one examines the testimony of Senseney before Senator Howard Baker:

SENATOR BAKER: OK, what about a cane, a walking cane?

SENENEY: Yes; an M-1 projectile could be fired from a cane, also an umbrella.

SENATOR BAKER: Also an umbrella. . . .

The preconditioning was thus laid in the fall of 1975; the Bulgarians were killed in the fall of 1978. We shall find it extremely interesting to find out who picks up the non-discernible microbioinoculator story, and where the accusing finger is ultimately pointed.

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On The Merits Of The K.I.S.S. Principle

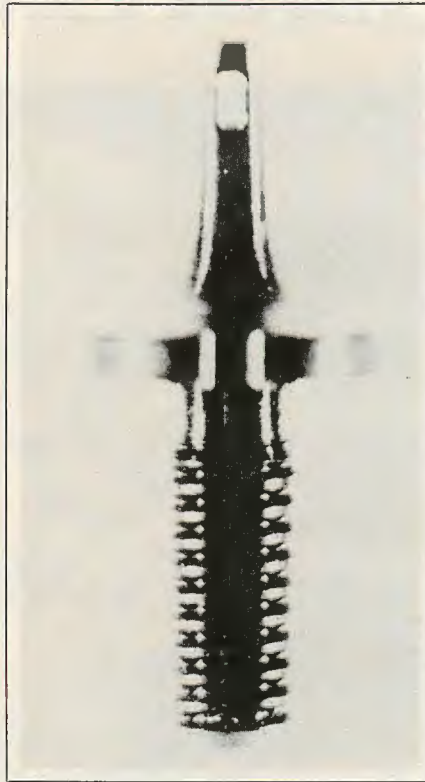
Nite-Site®

by N.E. MacDougald

In our November 1978 issue, I wrote enthusiastically about the concept of a compact handgun night sight and the practicality of one I had owned. I stand behind everything in that article. A night sight turns a 12-hour gun into a 24-hour gun. And since most studies show that most gunfights occur at night, a night sight becomes a must to a prudent person. What has changed, however, is the state-of-the-art in night sight technology and in keeping with our editorial policy, when a better mousetrap is made, we tell all.

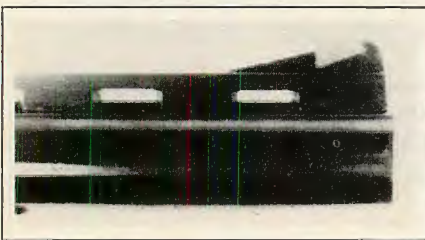
The new device, called Nite-Site, is the brainchild of a couple of veteran cops who designed it to help save their brother officers lives. Nite-Site features the K.I.S.S. principle (Keep It Simple, Stupid) and that makes it superior to most other systems. Those who have owned a number of machines usually come to the conclusion that fewer parts usually mean fewer breakdowns. Thus Nite-Site becomes the device of choice because it has *no* moving parts. As the literature states, "no batteries, no wires, no bulbs," and that means reliability.

So far, so good. But there must be a catch. After comparison with other products in the marketplace, the only catch was that Nite-Site is less expensive because



Nite-Site available for Colt M-16/AR-15, Armalite AR-180/AR-18, etc.

New model Nite-Site installed as insert (preferred).



it is less expensive to manufacture. If that is a catch, let's have more of the same.

After more than eight years of "rigorous fieldtesting," the makers have developed an ingeniously simple solution to low-light handgun combat.

The heart of the system, Promethium (Pm 147), a radioluminescent isotope, provides illumination without an external power supply. The word "Promethium" was derived from Prometheus, who according to Greek mythology, stole fire

from the gods and gave it to mankind. For those technically inclined, Promethium has a half-life of 2.7 years, in which time the element will have discharged half of its energy. But the relationship of radioactive half-life and brightness half-life are not interchangeable. Although half the radioactivity has dissipated in 2.7 years, less than half the brightness half-life has dissipated. See Chart I for the brightness decay rates of Promethium.

In the preceding paragraph I mentioned "rigorous fieldtesting." Lest the reader think this puffery, I quote Nite-Site's brochure (almost as thick as this issue) in which they attribute the following data to 3M:

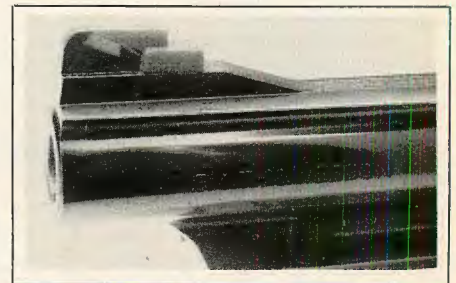
LUMINOUS ELEMENTS

Handgun rear sights contained 0.9 mCi Pm-147 each and read 200 microlamberts brightness. Handgun front sights contained 0.6 mCi Pm-147 each and read 200 microlamberts brightness. Shotgun sights contained 0.8 mCi Pm-147 each and read 300 microlamberts brightness.

TESTING PROGRAM AND RESULTS

Handgun 70H-1 — the weapon was heated to 175 degrees F for four (4) hours and then cooled to room temperature. There was no visible sign of damage and

Old model Nite-Site attaches by screw/glue.



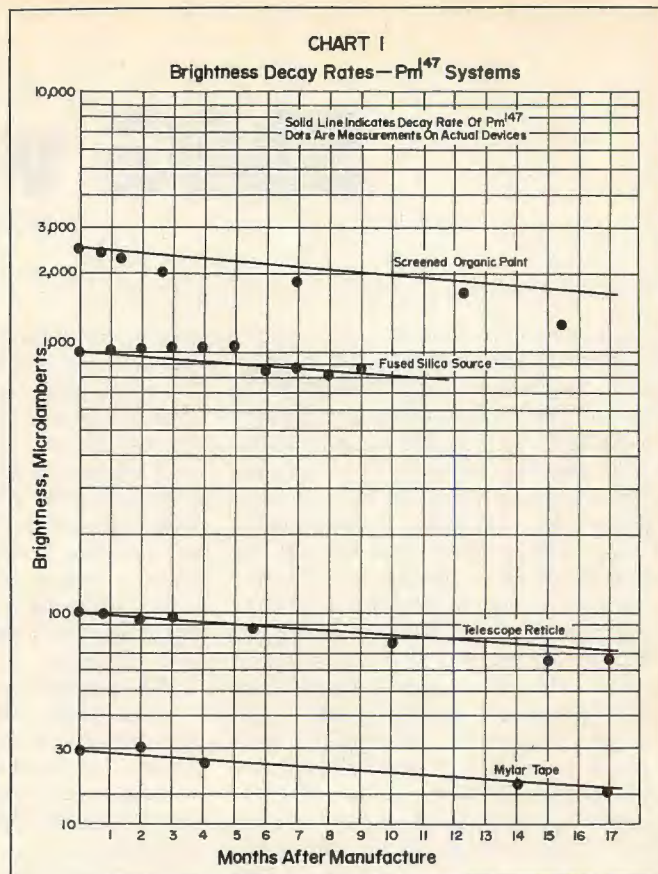
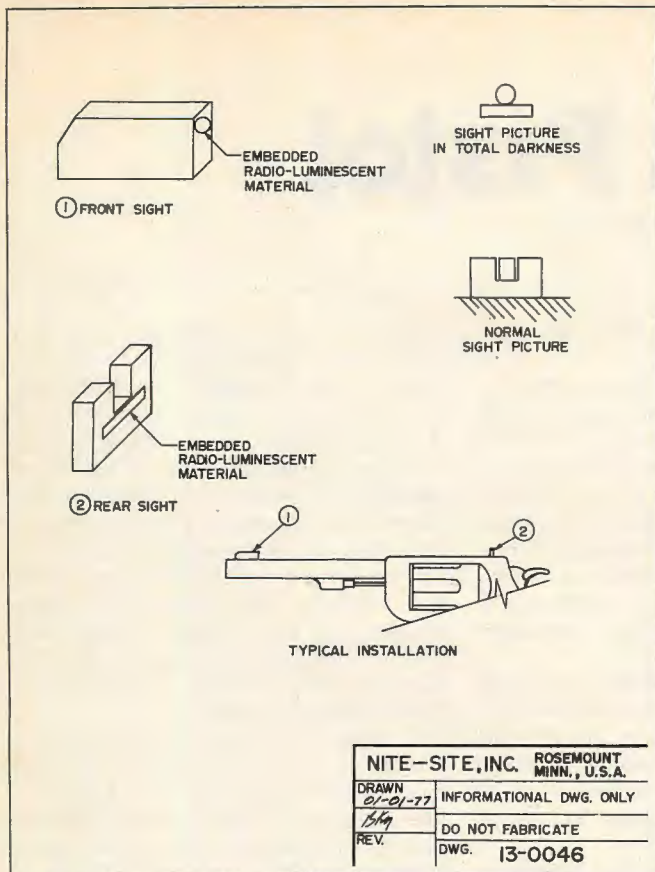
Nite-Site's founders are veteran police officers who evolved their idea slowly and carefully. They patented their day/night system (#3641676) and are enthusiastic about its future.

Julio A. Santiago, marketing director, served four years with the 82nd Airborne, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, from 1949 to 1953 at Ft. Bragg, North Carolina. He has been a police of-

ficer for 19 years with the Dakota County Sheriff's Office, Hastings, Minnesota. He has published numerous police training articles and was a firearms instructor (specializing in low-light combat shooting) for Minnesota's Bureau of Criminal Apprehension. Santiago is presently a deputy sheriff.

Elliell F. Knutsen, licensing director, served three years (reserve) with the

411th Infantry, 103rd Division, and was a master in small arms. He spent 2½ years as president of the Police Combat Shooters Association, in the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area, and is a certified firearms instructor for the state of Minnesota. He has been with the Rosemount (Minnesota) Police Department for 11 years.



less than 0.005 microcuries of removable surface contamination.

The weapon was packed in dry ice (-78 degrees C) for four (4) hours and then warmed to room temperature. There was no visible sign of damage and less than 0.005 microcuries of removable surface contamination.

The weapon was heated to 175 degrees F for one hour and then plunged into cold tap water. There was no sign of visible damage and less than 0.005 microcuries of surface contamination.

Handgun 70H-2 — The weapon was inserted into and removed from a leather holster one thousand times. There was no visible sign of damage and less than 0.005 microcuries of removable surface contamination.

The weapon was then vibrated at 60 cycles/second for one hour followed by vibration of 300 cycles/minute for one hour. There was no visible sign of damage and less than 0.005 microcuries of removable surface contamination.

Handgun 70H-3 — The weapon was dropped 100 times in a random orientation from a height of three feet onto a solid surface. There was no visible sign of damage and less than 0.005 microcuries of removable surface contamination.

The sights on the weapon were then sandblasted for one minute under 80 pounds pressure. Other than frosting of the lexan surface, there was no visible sign of damage and less than 0.005 microcuries of removable surface contamination.



Caution label issued with each Nite-Site must be regulation imposed by an officious bureaucrat as device emits about as much radiation as luminous watch. Scale illustrated by .44 magnum cartridge.

Nite-Site mounted on Ruger Mini 14 rifle with standard front post sight.



The weapon was heated to 500 degrees C. Both sights were severely burned. The sights crumbled to the touch. The area of the front sights showed about 0.5 microcuries on a smear test. The luminous element in the rear sight was intact and showed less than 0.005 microcuries of removable surface contamination. The maximum dose rate at the front sight luminous element remains was 3 millirem/hour measured with a side window G-M tube having a window thickness of 30 mg/cm².

Handgun 70H-4 — The front sight of this weapon was subjected to twenty impacts of one inch pound intensity from a drop-hammer having a one inch diameter. The surface of the lexan was dented but otherwise there was no visible sign of damage and less than 0.005 microcuries of removable surface contamination.

External Radiation Level

The dose rate from a handgun front sight is approximately 0.2 millirem per hour as measured by a Nuclear-Chicago Model 2650 G-M probe at a distance of 1 cm from the sight to the probe grill.

No other certification is to be implied.

Production Supervisor — J.W. Johnson, Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing

Sure, there are people who consider themselves tough, but I'd like to hear from anyone (or their beneficiaries) who encounters the above hardships in a day's work. If I were packed in dry ice for four

Continued on page 90

Which Is The Answer? SMG vs Pistol

by Chuck Taylor

As one becomes more and more knowledgeable in the field of military weaponry, he crashes into "irreconcilable opposites," from time to time. An "irreconcilable opposite," in case you are muttering to yourself by now, is a situation where two opposite points of view both have excellent credibility, thereby making it almost impossible to establish that one has more credence than the other.

Such is the case of the SMG versus the pistol, and just where does the answer lie? The military certainly isn't the source to consult since, before they complete their official stand on an issue, their stand changes! Weaponry, particularly small arms, is no exception, especially with the U.S. military, so we really cannot, if we are looking for practical answers, consult them for their policies. Current and recent

past events indicate that they really don't have a policy anyway.

Let's examine the issue from both sides. First, the pistol. The basic purpose of the military sidearm is to provide its wearer with a means to defend himself should the need arise. The pistol is not an offensive weapon by nature, although, in the hands of a master, it can indeed surprise you. But, such masters are few and far between, generally speaking, and thus those exceptions must not be given precedence over the norm.

The assets of the pistol are numerous. It is small, light, immensely portable, concealable if necessary — in an adequate caliber it is suitable to stop an assailant with one torso hit about 92 percent of the time — accurate, and reliable in its good examples.

The drawback is that it is difficult to master pistol technique, and, as a result,

large quantities of ammunition, time, and money are expended if one wishes his personnel and/or himself to become proficient with it. Ah, you say, what about the American Pistol Institute and the fact that Jeff Cooper and his staff, of which you yourself are a member, teach daily the efficient technique of the pistol? Indeed, in 5½ days, and 500 rounds, API teaches the safe, efficient use of the sidearm to people who knew virtually nothing about their weapon other than its basic operation and how to disassemble/assemble it prior to their enrollment at API. To you I say: You're absolutely right!

Confused? Don't be. What I'm saying is that, even though the above is certainly true, the military or even the police aren't likely to run their pistol-armed personnel through API to teach them how to shoot combat style. Why not, you say? Well, at this point the issue becomes somewhat

Author entering "haunted house" exercise using cal. .45 automatic during comparison tests. Found that although pistol was lighter, more portable, SMG allowed more rapid neutralization of targets.

Taylor draws on innocent bystander, did not fire. He is now Director of Operations of Cooper's American Pistol Institute.



more relative and quite abstract, but I'll tell you what *I* think.

In my opinion, the NIH (not invented here) syndrome comes into play, and, if one merely examines the record of past performances of both the police and the military, the possibility of this being true looms *very* large! Add to this, the functioning of any bureaucracy, especially one the size of the U.S. Army, for example, and it's certainly not difficult to see what happens — or doesn't happen, is it?

The military has forgotten almost all of what small arms are really for, so it's not really very surprising to discover that their choices of weapons in many cases, and/or the technique for the effective use of those weapons, is virtually non-existent! The sad, obvious fact of the matter is that the military really doesn't think the pistol is a serious fighting tool any longer, so then, why bother with any but the most perfunctory training, to "satisfy requirements?" This attitude, in turn, results in what little training one receives with the pistol being archaic in concept and accomplishing little to allow the wearer of the sidearm to effectively defend himself should the need arise.

So, what we are saying here is that, at present, the military community has failed, for whatever reasons, to recognize the pistol for what it is and what it can do, and, this being the case, has failed to adequately train their pistol-packing personnel to effectively use it. Hence, in this state, the pistol leaves much to be desired, right? After all, if everyone who carries a sidearm can shoot like an API graduate, there is no problem, correct? Absolutely, I say.

The SMG, on the other hand, was intended to fulfill the defensive role of the pistol, but, at the same time, allowed added versatility in the form of at least spe-



Taylor opens fire on double "felon" target. SMG appears better suited for this particular type of situation due to its larger, faster cone of fire.

cialized offensive capability. After all, the idea of advancing into the trench of the enemy under a hail of automatic fire had a great deal of promise in WWI! Immediately, weapons like the MP18 and Thompson soon appeared and the chain of evolution has continued to this day, culminating with the superb little Ingram (MAC) M10.

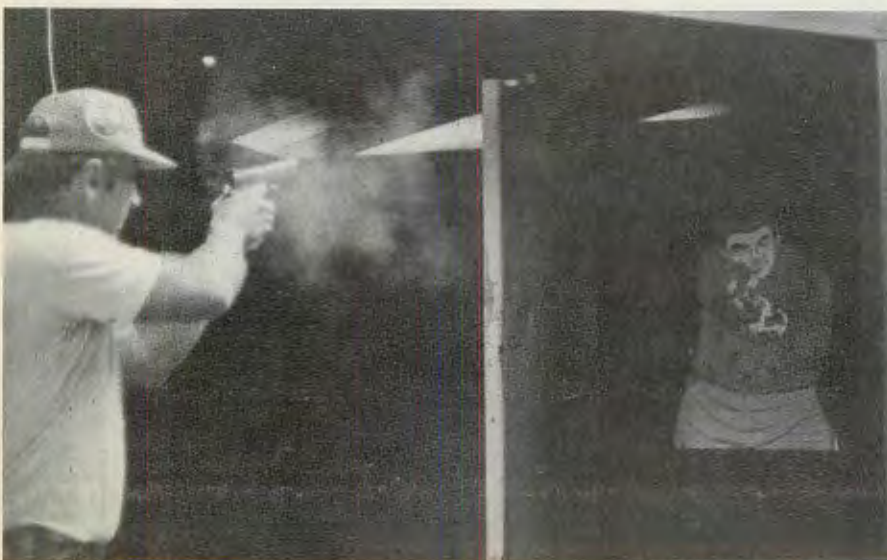
As much as the SMG sounds like the answer to the problem, at least initially, let's look into the subject further before forming a perhaps premature, and most probably, erroneous opinion. The SMG is indeed excellent for assault work, trench

warfare, house-to-house fighting, and vehicular use on the one hand, and on the other would seem to be an excellent choice for general purpose defensive use as well. The modern SMG is light, small, sufficiently accurate for the purpose, reliable, cheaply manufactured, and certainly adequately powerful since it shoots the same pistol cartridges that the sidearm utilizes. On the minus side, however, we must consider the fact that the SMG requires more ammunition to be expended to obtain the solid, "stopping" hits, by virtue of its concept of operation, but, possibly, this can be balanced by the fact that the stopping hits can be obtained faster than they can with the pistol, and, as well, be obtained under a more diverse spectrum of conditions than with the pistol, *if* the operator knows what he is doing. And this brings us to a crossroads — for, as with the pistol, the practical use of the SMG and the training for its efficient use have never really been considered by either the military or police communities.

I have always felt that the efficient use of the SMG could be effected with little more ammunition expenditure than with the pistol, but do admit that more ammo *would* be required because the SMG is designed to accomplish more missions than the pistol. Keeping this in perspective, the ammo expenditure issue is not a serious one.

As far as the practical use of the SMG is concerned, adequate training still remains to be seen, and the scarcity of auto-weapons and the constabulary's paranoia over them in civilian hands does little to improve the situation. I *do* know,

Author Taylor engaging "felon" target in closet of "haunted house." Aiming of handgun, particularly in poor light is a distinct problem for all but the master pistolero.





Volunteer enters "haunted house" problem set up by author for evaluation purposes with Thompson SMG. Found handling qualities excellent, allowing rapid, effective neutralization of surprise targets.

however, that I can make the SMG do anything the pistol will do, and then some! Admittedly the pistol is more concealable than a Thompson, but then again a MAC-11 .380 is smaller than a .45 auto. As should be obvious, the comparisons get tiresome after a while, hence the controversy.

At this point, I am of the opinion that *probably*, the effective use of the SMG can be facilitated in a much superior fashion to the way it is at present, but the final result must wait until a modern training method, such as that done at API by Jeff Cooper and his staff for the pistol, is created, and this could quite conceivably take decades, if the evolution of modern pistolcraft is any example. As I said earlier, I can make a SMG do anything I want it to do, but, there are those who tell me I'm a master of the SMG, and resultantly claim that the average guy cannot do the things I do with the SMG. I don't know that I agree with them fully, at least, on any or all counts, but, based on the experience I've had, I feel that anyone who knows how to shoot at all can be easily taught the technique of the SMG. So far, even the students themselves have been amazed at their progress, but I have not

taught enough of them to analyze the methods I use, although they seem to be adequate to date. Perhaps after I successfully instruct about 1000 of them, I can make definitive statements!

One point that needs mentioning: The SMG and pistol stand in relation to each other the way apples do to oranges. Therefore, courses of fire designed for pistols do not suffice for evaluating one's performance with SMGs. When creating or considering courses of training or competition, don't forget to make them *realistic*. Shooting five rounds at each of three silhouettes nine meters apart and 10 meters downrange in 4.5 seconds, then counting the score, causes people to do things to win that they'd never do in a fight. In this case, they *shoulder* the SMG to get maximum score instead of using it from the underarm (assault) position as they should. In addition, the requirement to shoot five rounds at each target is ridiculous. Why bother with it at all? Why not leave it up to the shooter and only count the best two hits on each target, then divide the point score by the elapsed time of the string to form a points-per-second score? This would certainly *let the shooter solve the problem*, and the one who solves it best wins. Only in this

fashion will the evolution of successful, progressive SMG technique take place. I guarantee the man who tries to shoulder a weapon against me at 10 or 15 meters will die in one hell of a hurry! This means that careful consideration of "what are we trying to do here," *must* take place before any course of fire is created. Remember, *fuzzy concepts and thinking produce garbage*, nothing more.

Likewise, the firing of 15 rounds at 25 or 30 meters at a single silhouette within a certain time limit is silly. Who, for example, shoots that many rounds into a target in a real fight? Any work past 20-25 meters with a SMG should be done in the semi-mode anyway, lest excessive ammunition consumption with no resultant return in neutralized targets be encountered, and, make no mistake, an empty SMG will get you killed as quickly as no gun at all in a fight!

By way of analysis, I recently attempted a "jungle lane" and "haunted house" exercise with the SMG and with a pistol. Ranges on the "jungle lane" were out to 50 meters, on 10-inch diameter impact plates, while ranges were of the typical indoor type, with ATS silhouette targets, in the "haunted house."

Student engages pop-up silhouette in semi-darkness with SMG with little difficulty. 5-round burst printed entirely in K-zone of target.



Fifty-meter shots on the impact plates were no problem at all with the SMG, in this case the M1A1 Thompson, and, at the closer ranges, I was able to consistently neutralize the targets faster than with the pistol, in some cases even while on the move!

The "haunted house" contained a number of different tactical problems, all unknown to me, of course, and I again was able to negotiate the course through the house faster than I could with the pistol. It is worth mentioning that the problem included several hostage situations which necessitated the shouldering of the SMG. I also note that the *only* time I shouldered the gun on the entire course was to engage the hostage situations. All other work was done from the underarm position. I "cleaned" both problems, by the way. So much for the "added accuracy" of shouldering the SMG at close range. Rubbish!

Once I had completed the problems mentioned above, they were reset into a similar skill-level configuration by me, and another shooter volunteered to go through them. In this case, the volunteer was an excellent combat-pistol shot who had been openly skeptical of my theory. He, too, successfully negotiated both



Volunteer negotiates "hostage-situation" with TSMG. As with author Taylor, only shouldered weapon in this particular situation for added precision precluding the possibility of a hit on the hostage. Note impact of two-shot burst on felon silhouette, lower right.

Student takes out a "felon" from the shoulder with a Thompson SMG in a "hostage-situation."



courses without shouldering the SMG once except for the 50-meter shot on the "jungle lane," and a hostage situation in the "haunted house."

He came away a believer, and I, naturally, found this most gratifying. Others have formed the same opinion, based on similar experience. Who knows, maybe some day we'll have the final answer.

So, in summary, I can only state my opinion, which has at least some expertise and background behind it, but cannot be the answer, at least at this point in time, for everyone. I'm an internationally Class-A ranked combat pistol shot, and have consistently been among the top finishers in the U.S. for the last several years, and I prefer the SMG over the pistol, or perhaps more correctly, *in addition to the pistol*. The SMG is still not as handy as a pistol with one's pants down in the bushes or hopping out of bed to confront an intruder in the middle of the night!

That's my choice and my opinion. Form yours carefully and intelligently, and train with realistic, well-thought-out courses of fire, or you'll place yourself in distinct danger of dying unnecessarily the first time you get into a fight. The choice isn't an easy one, but you're betting your life on that choice, so it had better be right!



Kalashnikov's Answer: **The AK-47** & **Its Variations** by Christopher Newport

The reader needs no introduction to the Soviet AK-47. Hardly a day goes by without one being seen in the hands of some soldier or guerrilla on television. What you may not know, however, is that the development of the AK-47 can be considered an historical accident and that the rifle is produced in Communist and non-Communist countries alike in a variety of forms other than the Soviet model.

The popularity the AK-47 now enjoys around the world is not the result of a conscious effort on the part of the Soviet Union to develop an assault rifle. It is the result of the combination of a reliable design, imposed standardization in Eastern Europe, and massive Soviet giveaways in the Third World.

Even the Germans deserve some credit, for they developed the assault rifle doctrine that gave rise to the AK-47 by combining a selective fire rifle and their 7.92mm Kurz intermediate size cartridge during World War II. They had planned to use them to replace their rifles, submachine guns, and light machine guns, but Hitler's procrastination and the war's strain on their industry prevented their MP43/44 assault rifles from ever superseding them.

Since most of the thousands that were produced went to the Eastern Front, it is not surprising that, of the Allies, the Soviet Union was most impressed by them and was the first nation to totally equip its armies with assault rifles. This fact, however, is misleading, for the AK-47 was originally designed as a sub-machine gun to replace their PPSH41s and PPS43s.

As early as World War I, the Russians experimented with selective fire rifles, but it was not until World War II, when they faced the German 7.92mm Kurz MP43/44s that they decided to develop a similar intermediate size cartridge and the small arms to use it.

Originally, the Soviets opted for a semi-automatic rifle, submachine gun, and light machine gun firing their new M1943 7.62X39mm cartridge. By 1945, the first of the new squad level weapons, the Simonov (SKS) carbine, had been developed and began to replace the nu-

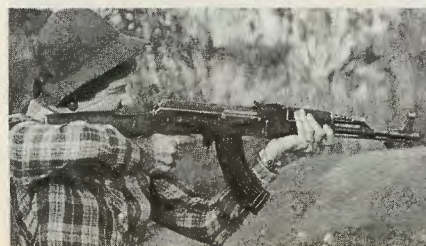


Daniel Roxo, one of greatest white hunters in Mozambique and legendary terrorist hunter, holds AK and SKS. East German AKM on left has plastic stock rather than wood. SKS on right is also chambered for M-1939 7.62 cartridge. No longer in front line Soviet use, it is seen throughout Third World countries, is as reliable as AK series. Roxo was KIA in landmine explosion in Angola in fall of 1976.

merous bolt action Mosin Nagant rifles then in service.

In 1949, the selective fire Avtomat Kalashnikov-47, in both folding and fixed stock versions, arrived and began to supplant their submachine guns and complement the SKSs and the newly

Mrs. Jeff Cooper tries her hand with AK-47 illegally imported into Rhodesia. Weapon was loaned to the Coopers by Rhodesian Ministry of Justice.



developed RPD light machine guns. Obviously, the Soviets had not grasped the full significance and advantages of the revolutionary German assault rifle doctrine for, although their new squad weapons fired a common intermediate size round, there were still three distinct designs involved instead of one common to all their troops.

Designed by a former Red Army NCO, Mikhail T. Kalashnikov, the AK-47 is a gas-operated, selective fire rifle with a 30-round magazine. It soon proved to be a better weapon than the SKS, for it was more reliable, carried 20 more rounds, and was capable of full automatic fire. Since it was the same caliber as the SKS and had a barrel only four inches shorter, it also had about the same effectiveness under tactical conditions. By the early '50s, it had begun to replace the SKS in line units and had a conventional bayonet added. The Soviets were now beginning to understand the difference between a submachine gun and an assault rifle.

Kalashnikov continued to work on the AK-47 and in 1959 an improved version, the AKM, was introduced. Its main advantages were reduced weight (1.7 lbs), and improved stock-to-receiver angle for better control, a flange-like muzzle compensator on later specimens, a rate reducer, and a stamped, riveted receiver to replace the more expensive milled ones found on the AK-47.

The easiest way to distinguish any conventionally stocked AKM from the earlier AK-47 is by noting if the stock is straight back from the receiver as on an M16A1, or dropped at an obvious angle. On folding stock specimens, identification is a little more difficult, for you must look for a ribbed receiver cover, and small rectangular magazine guide indentations (above the magazine well) on the receiver. These distinguishing characteristics, among others, hold true for AK-47s and AKMs produced by any Warsaw Pact country.

The Soviets also changed the AK bayonet from an eight-inch conventional one to a knife bayonet with a slotted six-inch blade for the AKM. The latter, when its slot is fitted to a lug on its insulated metal sheath, makes a serviceable wire cutter.

The two bayonets are not interchangeable.

Since the adoption of the AK-47 weapons system, the Soviets have expanded it to include the RPK light machine gun to replace the RPD at the squad level, the PK (bipod mount) / PKS (tripod mount) general purpose machine gun for the company and battalion level, and the PKT and PKB for tanks and armored personnel carriers respectively. While the RPK is essentially an AKM with a longer barrel, bipod mount, modified shoulder stock and enlarged magazine capacities, the PKs fire the full size 7.62 x 54mm (rimmed) Mosin Nagentrifle cartridge, are belt fed, have quick change barrels, and are the result of extensive re-designing of the AK-47. A modification of the PK, the PKM, is now being produced. It can be distinguished from the earlier version by its nonfluted barrel, increased use of stampings, hinged shoulder support on the butt and slightly reduced weight.

Several members of the Warsaw Pact are making copies of one or more of these machine guns as well as the AKM. North Korea can be included in this group as can (North) Vietnam. Oddly enough, although the latter imports its AKs, it manufactures a version of the RPK.

At least 11 countries manufacture some form of the AK-47, and many more issue them, making it the most common of all assault rifles now in use. While some experts point out that the Soviet M1943 cartridge is not a particularly well designed combat round and that the AK has some design flaws, it fulfills the two prerequisites of any infantry rifle: it is reliable and it kills. The latest Soviet AK innovation, currently under development, appears to be a 5mm plus AKM using a 90-round magazine. It is difficult to be specific, however, because information is very sketchy and hard to come by. Kalashnikov has been awarded the title "Hero of Socialist Labor," several prizes, and is a member of the Supreme Soviet.



Female MPLA troopers in Angola carry AKMs recognizable by beaver-tail configuration of fore-end. Right-front and left-rear troops hold East German AKs.

The AK-47 was obviously his ticket into the inner circle of Soviet society.

As mentioned above, many countries produce copies of the AK-47 or AKM. Some differ in minor details externally, internally, or not at all. One would have to examine the selector markings and whatever else is stamped on the weapon to discover its origin. Others, however, show by their distinctive appearance, that the manufacturers had their own ideas on how an assault rifle should be designed and, within the limits of their respective political, military, and technical considerations, expressed themselves.

Until the Red Chinese attached a permanently mounted, folding, cruciform bayonet under the muzzle of their Type 56, it was identical to the Soviet AK-47. Unlike most of the other countries which produce the AK, however, they developed a native-designed rifle, the Type 68, instead of later adopting the AKM. In appearance, it is similar to the SKS but is

a selective fire rifle with a barrel four inches longer than an AK's and a normal magazine capacity of 15 rounds. If its bolt stop is removed, however, a 30-round AK magazine can be used in its place.

The North Koreans have also copied the AK-47 (Type 58) and the AKM (Type 68) but eliminated the latter's rate reducer. They also don't seem to care much about exterior finish on their weapons. An unusual feature on their folding stock AKs are the large perforations in the struts. These lighten them, to the detriment of the shooter's accuracy and shoulder, more than is usual on AK folders. The North Koreans also retained the AK-47 style fore-end grip on their Type 68 instead of copying the beavertail fore-end bulges found on the Soviet AKM and most others.

Poland and Bulgaria both have AK-47s and AKMs that are close copies of the Soviet weapons; unlike other non-Soviet AKMs, the Polish versions do have the flange compensator. The AK-47s and AKMs made in Poland are called the kbkAK and kbkAKM; the Bulgarians use the Soviet designations. At one time Poland manufactured AK-47s for Bulgaria.

The Poles went their own way in the development of the kbkAK-DGN, an AK-47 that can launch rifle grenades. Tactically, it is to be used as the U.S. Army uses the M-79 grenade launcher or its successor the M16A1/M203, i.e., by grenadiers within the infantry squad. Its modifications include a removable launcher, special sights, a 10-shot magazine for ballistic (grenade-launching) cartridges, a gas cutoff switch on the gas cylinder, and a detachable recoil boot for the buttstock.

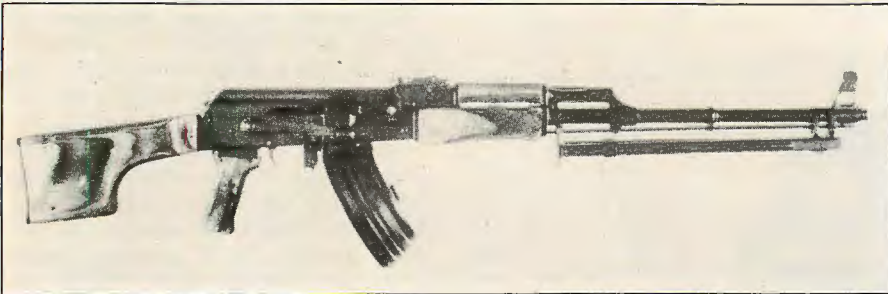
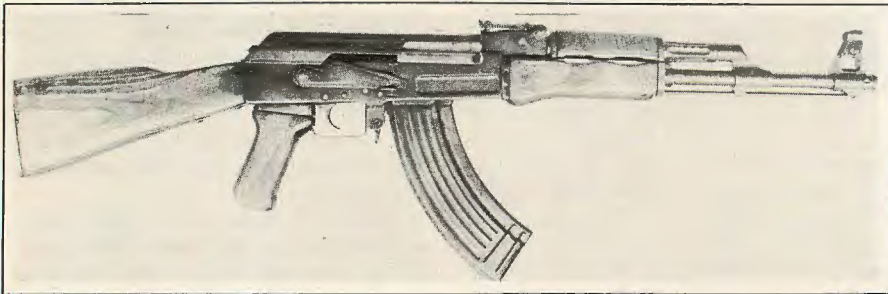
Of the countries that have adopted the AK-47 weapon system, only Poland, Yugoslavia, and Israel have AKs that launch rifle grenades. All others use

AK-47 sees duty with PLO in Lebanon.



GENERAL AK CHARACTERISTICS

Caliber: 7.62mm x 39 Soviet M1943
Operation: Gas, Selective Fire
Overall Length: Fixed Stock: 34.3 in.
Folding Stock (closed): 25.4 in.
Barrel Length: 16.3 in.
Weight (loaded) AK-47: 10.6 lbs.
AKM: 8.9 lbs.
Magazine Capacity: 30 rd., Detachable Box
Effective Range: 400 m.
Cyclic Rate: 600 RPM
Selector Positions: Top: Safe
Middle: Auto.
Bottom: Semi-automatic



Photos at left from top to bottom: (A) Israeli 5.56mm Galil Rifle as issued to troops in 1973. Resembles Finnish Model 62, but inside is very much the same as Soviet AK-47. This weapon replaces the .308 NATO F.A.L. (B) Hungarian 7.62 AMD Assault Rifle. Modified AKM, this weapon is only 23.5 inches long with stock folded. Muzzle blast is excessive. (C) Hungarian AKM has plastic stock and fore-end. Note back of hand guard on top of gas cylinder. (D) Soviet AK-47. Note milled receiver and slender fore-arm. This weapon replaced PPsh and PPS in Russian T.O.E. (E) RPK light M.G., equipped with 75-rd. drum magazine. It also can use 40-rd. box magazine as well as the 30-rd. magazine of AK series. RPKS is same gun but stock can be folded to the left. (F) AKM is the new AK series. New features include 1) stamped receiver, 2) rate reducer on trigger mechanism, 3) beaver tail configuration on fore-end, 4) rear-sight leaf is graduated to 1000 meters instead of 800 meters.

mortars and RPG-2 or RPG-7 rocket launchers to fill this requirement.

Although Communist Yugoslavia is not a member of the Warsaw Pact, it has adopted the AK-47 as the basis of its "Faz" family of small arms. It includes AKs capable of launching rifle grenades and two light machine guns.

Originally, they produced the M64 which has a 19.7-inch barrel, 3.4 inches longer than the usual AK which took a 20-round magazine. Soon the M64A appeared which is an M64 with a standard AK barrel length of 16.3 inches and using a 30-round magazine.

Both weapons and the M64B, a folding stock version, can be fitted with either a grenade launcher or a conventional compensator at the muzzle and have a permanently attached launching sight which acts as a gas cutoff when raised from its position at the front of the gas cylinder. Since every Yugoslav AK is fitted with the special sight and can have a launcher screwed on the muzzle, it is obvious that they decided to give each infantry man the grenade-launching capability instead of following the American and Polish example.

Unlike other AKs, the "Faz" weapons have a bolt stop which means that their magazines are not interchangeable with those of other countries. When first

INTERNATIONAL NOMENCLATURE of AK-47 and ITS VARIATIONS

PRODUCER	SELECTOR	MARKINGS	NATIVE NAMES	REMARKS
	AUTO	SEMI-AUTO		
Soviet Union*	AB	OA	AK-47, AKM and AKMS	
Bulgaria*	AB	EA	AK-47 and AKM	
Poland*	C	D	DMK, PMK-DGN, KbK AK	
E. Germany*	D	E	MPK, MPiKMS	Rifles do not have cleaning rods, MPiKM and MPiKMS have cleaning rods.
Romania*	FA	FF		Has "S" at top for safe position.
Communist China				Early Production
Communist China	L	D	Type 56 and 56-1	Assault Rifle
Hungary*	1			
Finland			M60 and M62	RYNNAKOKIVAARI -- applies to M60 and M62
North Korea			Types 58 and 68	Assault Rifle
Yugoslavia	R	J	M64 series	Has U at top for safe position
Czechoslovakia	30	1	M58	Assault Rifle
Red China	L	D	Type 56	

*Warsaw pact member. Czechoslovakia is the only Pact member not to adopt the Soviet AK, preferring their native designed 7.62 M1943 Vz Assault Rifle.

Note: Most AK producers make a folding stock AK-47 or AKM. The nomenclature distinction is usually the addition of a letter or number to the fixed stock version's title.

produced, they had knurled grips, but later versions have grips that are identical to those of the Soviets. A nomenclature revision a few years ago changed the M64A to the M70 and the M64B folder to the M70A; there were, however, no physical alterations of the weapons.

As mentioned above, the Yugoslav "Faz" family includes two light machine guns, the M65A and M65B. Both are based on the AK-47 and are not copies of the Soviet RPK. They are essentially the M64A/M70 with 20-inch barrels, (finned and quick change on the M65B), fitted with bipods and conical flash hiders. Both use the Yugoslav 30-round magazine exclusively.

The Israelis have become the first pro-West nation to adopt the AK. Unlike other non-Soviet modification, theirs can be considered a significant improvement of the AK-47. For obvious reasons, it is in the U.S. 5.56mm caliber, the only combat AK not using the Soviet M1943 cartridge.

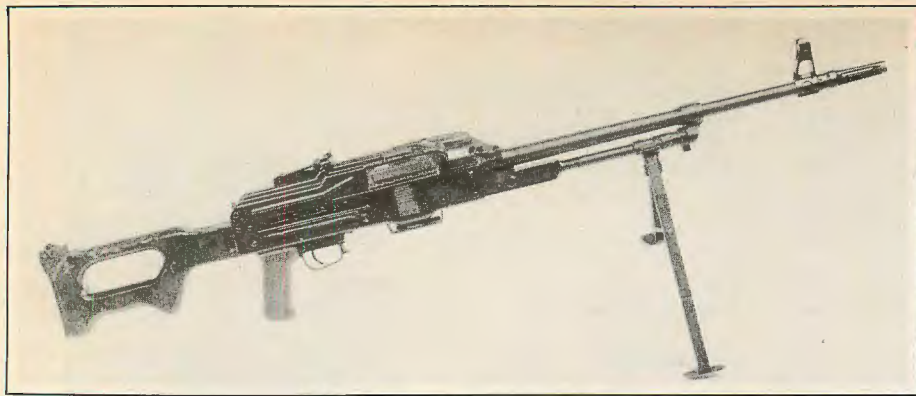
The Galil, as it is called, has, as other modifications, an improved selector switch located on the left side of the hand grip instead of the usual right side of the receiver, a knobbed operating handle, a carrying handle, a folding metal stock as standard issue, and a bipod that can serve as a wire cutter.

Its sights are located on the gas cylinder and receiver cover instead of at the muzzle and just forward of the breech, as found on other AKs, with the exception of the Finnish version discussed below. The Galil can also mount a sniper scope, something that no other AK is designed for.

Every rifle also has a grenade-launching capability by using its flash suppressor as the launcher, its gas cutoff (located below the front sight), and ballistic cartridges. There are, however, no special sights for launching accuracy. As with Yugoslavs, every soldier can be a grenadier.

The Galil is usually found with an 18-inch barrel. In this configuration it is called an ARM (Assault Rifle-Light





7.62 PKM is latest of PK/PKS series with quick change barrel. Mechanism is basically an "upside-down" AK-47. P.K. stands for "Pulomet Kalishnikov" — machinegun Kalishnikov.



RPK (Soviet) boasts capacious 40-round magazine.

Machine Gun) indicating the two roles it was designed for. There is also a SAR (Short Assault Rifle) version being produced with a 13-inch barrel and a vertical foregrip, but lacking the ARM-carrying handle and bipod.

Three magazines are made for the Galil assault rifle: 35-round capacity, 50-round capacity for use in the ARM as a light machine gun, and finally a 12-round magazine for ballistic cartridges. All have the usual curved shape common to AK magazines.

When Finland adopted their next-door neighbor's AK-47 they modified it to suit their northern climate. Their M60 has a permanent winter-style trigger guard, i.e. open for use with heavy gloves, a very distinctive tubular metal stock and hand grip, and a perforated plastic fore-end. There is no wood on the weapon. It also has an unusual flash suppressor/bayonet mount and sights located as on the Israeli Galil.

The M60's successor, the M62, has a stamped-steel receiver similar to an AKM, a conventional trigger guard and slightly modified buttstock and fore-end. It is, however, still an AK-47 and not an AKM. This rifle is imported into the U.S. in semi-automatic form as the M62-S and M71-S in 7.62mm, M1943 and 5.56mm calibers respectively. A conventional buttstock is available as an option.

The East German AK-47, the MPiK, differs from the Soviet version by omission of the cleaning rod under the barrel and the related equipment from inside the buttstock. When the MPiKM, their AKM, appeared, that distinction vanished, but dark-brown, studded plastic stocks became common.

By far, the most interesting East German innovation has been a .22 caliber rim-fire (5.6mm x 16mm) AK training rifle, the KKMPi-69. Issued to their soldiers during basic training, it is designed to resemble the MPiKM in every possible way. Since it is blowback operated, the KKMPi-69 does not have a gas cylinder above the barrel. This, and the small bore diameter, aid in distinguishing this sub-caliber AKM from the combat version.

The existence of this rifle has undoubtedly been the source of the inaccurate rumor among American troops in West Germany that the East Germans were equipped with 5.56mm AKs as lethal as the M16A1.

The AK-47s of both Romania and Hungary are close copies of the Soviet model and carry the same nomenclature, as do their AKMs. The latter, however, differ sharply, for they have opted for vertical foregrips similar to those found on the Israeli SAR.

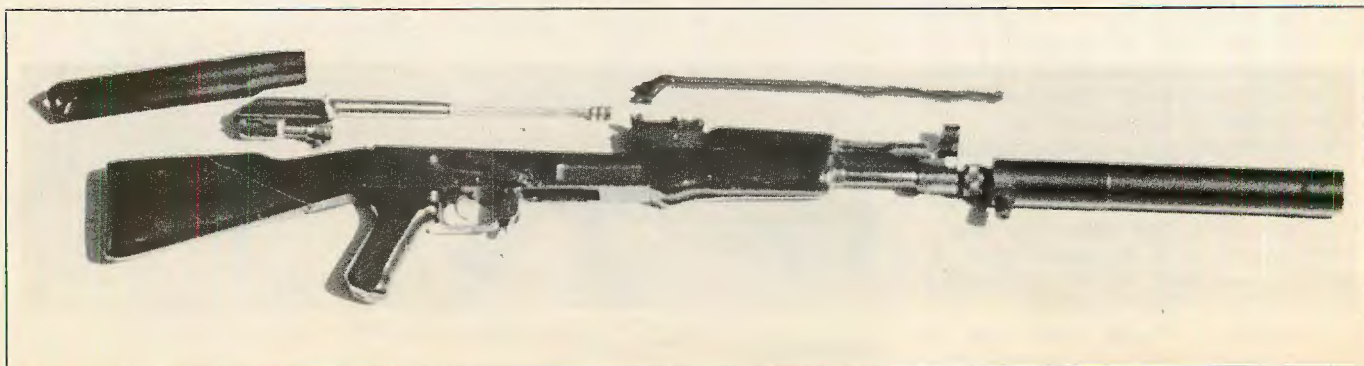
Romania's AKM is conventional in appearance with the exception of its fore-

end which has a grip extension below it. The Hungarians, on the other hand, have done away with wood entirely on their AKM, preferring a light blue or dark green buttstock, ventilated metal fore-end and a vertical grip made of the same material as the stock. They also prefer to leave the fluted gas cylinder above the barrel completely exposed, as do the Israelis and Finns, while all others cover most of it with a hand guard.

Hungary has also adopted a shortened, folding-stock AKM called the AMD. The barrel has been reduced from the usual 16.3 inches to 12.6 inches and has a large muzzle compensator. Unlike most other folders, this AK uses a single strut for support. Overall length with the stock closed is a compact 23.5 inches, about the same as the Israeli SAR. These are the only short barreled AKs produced and both countries consider them sub-machine guns.

The success of the AK-47 assault rifle has been due to a chain of accidental circumstances: prior German small arms development, an excellent sub-machine gun designed by an obscure army NCO, the lesser reliability of the SKS, and the USSR's postwar position in the world. If any link in this chain had failed to materialize it could have been, at best, just another sub-machine gun. But fate worked in its favor and the

Rare photo of AK with silencer.





Captured and recaptured in wartorn Africa, this AK's origin is unknown.



Canadian journalist Lubor Zink examines communist-made arms captured from terrorists who infiltrated into Rhodesia's Zambesi Valley. Zink holds AKM, BSAP officer holds RPG 7 rocket launcher. SKS rifle is at bottom and RPD squad machine gun rests on bipod. Photo courtesy Rhodesian Ministry of Information.

AK-47/AKM's present dominance in the military world cannot be disputed.

It is obvious that the countries discussed above have generally considered the AK mechanism inviolate, preferring to stay with its proven design rather than to indulge in expensive tinkering or the development of a native alternative. And it is a proven design, for wherever there has been Communist-inspired violence in the last 12 years the AK-47 has been there. It is reliable and it kills . . . and it's easy to get.

It is quite probable that the AK design will be in use until cased ammunition becomes obsolete. This is not to say, however, that it will always use the Soviet M1943 cartridge, for its flexibility in this respect has already been proven by the East Germans, Israelis, and the Soviets. The latter's research continues, and any day now the result may be seen in the hands of some paratrooper goose-stepping through Red Square.



East German 7.62mm LMG, PK/PKS. Note similar inverted gas system used on PKM.



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Leathernecks Used Secret Weapon In Vietnam

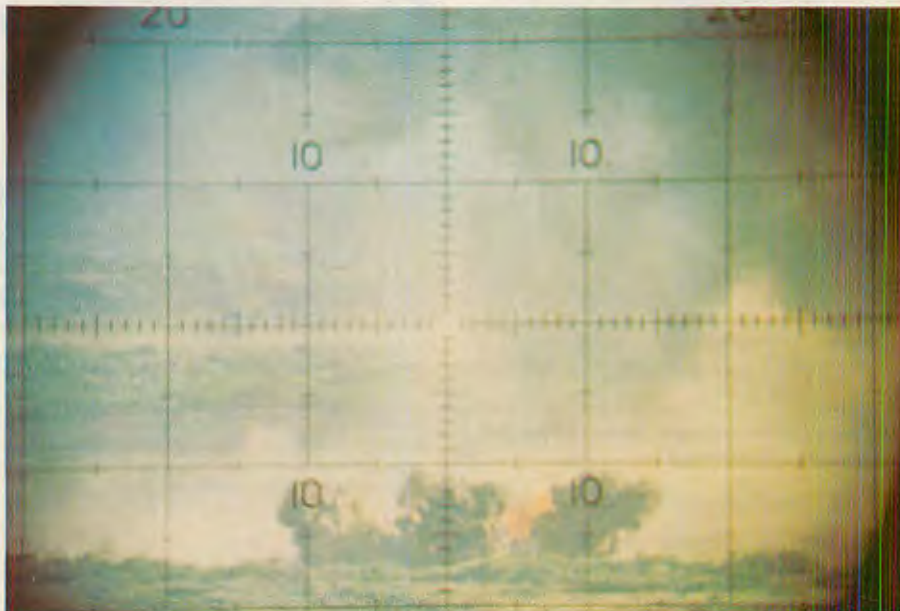
Spyglass Alpha

by Mark Tigh

Waiting patiently for late afternoon shadows to deepen into early evening, the NVA sapper team silently went over their equipment and began mental and psychological preparations for this long-awaited mission.

As the vanguard element of a carefully-orchestrated attack on the Thuong Duc Special forces Camp some 50 miles southwest of Danang, their objective was to move slowly under cover of darkness and penetrate the outer and inner perimeters of the camp, locate and destroy major weapons emplacements, and provide a breach in the camp's defenses long enough for special raiding elements of the main attack force to locate and seize cryptography gear, current code books, and sophisticated electronic instruments maintained jointly by Special Forces S-2 and USMC Sierra Relay team.

When dusk finally arrived, the sapper team began their five-klick hike down the narrow trail through mountain jungle canopy 70 feet tall in places. With a good pace in the cool, moonless evening, they would reach their infiltration point within several hours. The exact moment of the attack was contingent only on their priorities: once they had breached and cleared the concertina, smelling their way through previously cut and refastened



A Tactical Air Strike (TAS) called in on "Morgie's Woods" in "Northern Arizona Territory." Ordnances dropped consisted of two napalm canisters and four 250 lb. bombs.

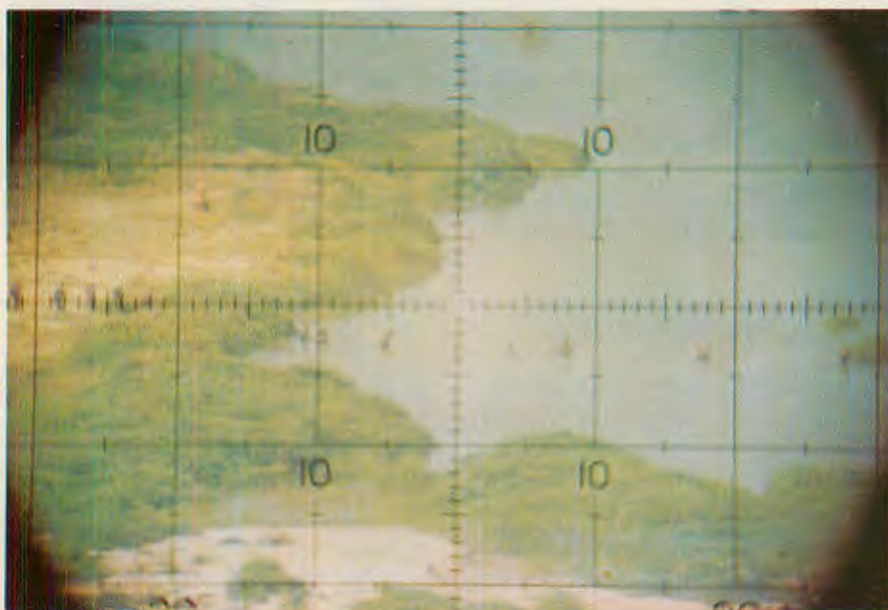
barb wire, using as guide points small piles of human excrement left behind by earlier forays, any explosions, weapons fire, or alarm would herald a deluge of 122mm rocket, mortar, and small arms fire, dur-

ing and after which the raiding team would assault the created breach.

Approaching an open area on the defilade side of a ridgeline, the leader motioned his point man out ahead; wary, but certain his movements had been thus far unobserved, he beckoned the rest of the team to move quickly across the clearing — that was his last conscious act on earth. The sapper team had unwittingly moved directly into the crosshairs of a 7.5 power Starlight Scope — 10-20 power ship's binoculars — and the then-secret laser-beam ranging finder of an Integrated Observation Device recon team some 4000 meters away on Hill 250. The recon team had located probable infiltration routes on previous inserts into the area, and had precleared and pinpointed designated target zones for long range eight-inch howitzer and 175mm gun batteries on Hills 55 and 65.

As the NVA team approached the target site, walking single file on a steeply sloped ridgeback, the IOD forward observer radioed fire for effect in a coordinated time-on-target fire mission which rained steel shards and blasted rock first on the target site itself, then at points 300 meters above and below the site, mopping up any escaping survivors of the initial rounds out.

Kilo Co. fording the Song Vu Gia below Hill 65 as seen through the "Spyglass."



The ensuing pyrotechnics signaled the onset of the rocket, mortar, and small arms barrage on Thuong Duc, which had been alerted for the attack and was quietly expecting the first of the human wave rushes. As the mortars and rockets were unleashed, NVA launching emplacements were pinpointed with the Starlight Scope, and the fire for effect merely shifted around the foothills of the Song Vu Gia river valley for the rest of the night. By this time, however, the Special Forces people wanted blood, so they sent out their own verification patrols before first light, although the camp itself took sporadic mortar and rocket fire for the next three days.

This particular incident took place in February 1970 and was the first in a series of major debacles to befall the NVA at the hands of the IOD recon teams. As a forward observer for artillery and naval gunfire attached to the Spyglass Alpha and later, Bravo teams, I witnessed firsthand the single most effective tool/system approach to recon fire missions yet developed. Simply put, we could spot, fix, and fire accurately *anywhere* within an effective range up to 8000 meters and they could not see us — more than just a slight tactical advantage.

In its first month of operation, the IOD concept accounted for more than 60 percent of all kills for certain gun batteries in



Rear view of IOD Spyglass Alpha.

Front view of IOD Spyglass Alpha, located on Hill 65.



the 11th Marines Artillery Regiment, and increased confirmed KIAs more than 300 percent for the same batteries. The device itself was deceptively simple in plan, but utilized state-of-the-art electronics, optics, and laser research to combine for an effectively matched and suited extreme-long-range-target-fixation package.

Originally brought into the Vietnam war by the MACV SOG and the Army, six IOD units with respective primary and reserve recon teams were set up from southern IX Corps to Gio Linh up in the DMZ. The USMC in I Corps had two initially in the fall of 1969, and then brought in others as their usefulness became fact. The IOD Recon teams were composed of an OIC, usually a 1st or 2nd lieutenant, two radiomen, two to three forward observers, one air liaison man, and a weapons/demolitions expert. The two original USMC teams were assembled in August and September 1969 from veteran field and Recon volunteers, and received instruction for roughly one month in the care, operation, and transportation of the devices before going out. The teams were assigned AOs in areas frequented by inserts from 1st Recon Battalion out of Danang, and set up both permanent and mobile positions as dictated by ongoing tactical considerations. Normal operations consisted of a radioman and one FO



An eight-inch self-propelled howitzer, nicknamed "The Preacher," that belched forth honest-to-God hellfire and brimstone sermons from Hill 65.

manning the IOD, with a small insert team to establish possible targets and verify results after a fire mission completed rounds out.

The fact that all members of the team were veteran FOs and recon-trained provided the mobility and flexibility with which the teams augmented and complemented the incredible combined capabilities of the instruments. Frequently, teams would be inserted onto ridgelines, peaks, OP's — wherever they could fully utilize the equipment — and would function for as long as the mission required or until the position was compromised, necessitating air cover and extraction, which was always on call during an insertion, due to the extreme secrecy and development costs of the prototype equipment.

The device consisted of a heavy, transit-style tripod equipped with threaded self-levelers at each leg and on the instrument base plate, upon which was mounted a special 7.5-power large field, non-blooming Starlight Scope with adjustable back-

IOD Team Spyglass Alpha on Hill 510, Quan Thuong Duc, pop smoke for chopper.



ground illumination and focusing eye-pieces, a 10-20 power variable adjusting pair of ship's binoculars with inscribed reticles, and the laser range finder, which when boresighted on an object already focused upon by the binos, emitted a single red ruby laser pulse beam which struck the



Bunker and tower in which IOD Spyglass Alpha was located on Hill 65.

specific target. Bouncing off the object back along its own optical path, the beam engaged a computer timing device which provided a digital readout in meters of the range to the target, based on the absolute speed of light, the pulse beam's travel time out and back, and the relative strength of the returning beam to dis-

tank, and got back the readout in meters to the center of the cylindrical tank's side. Then adjusting the crosshairs farther around the tank's side, he obtained a reading in meters of a 1.5 meter difference due to the curved side's greater distance from our position. The General nodded silent acknowledgement, then later asked where he could get one, and how soon could he have it. . . .

At some of the more secure fixed positions, base chair-borne commandos would monitor our fire missions, and at the first hint of a large scale, time-on-target mission, would pull out the lawn chairs and iced beverages in order to more comfortably review the ensuing melee by remote control.

Another high-ranking officer was scanning a sector of the "Charlie Ridge"/Dai Loc mountains, and found himself looking lens to lens at an NVA binocular man situated on a peak. Each man looked again, then hesitantly waved to make sure the other was really there — and then the

criminate against accidental range readings from incidental reflections.

As could be expected, during the shake-down trials interesting results and side effects, which could not be anticipated and which provided a variety of diversions as well as anecdotes, were discovered. There inevitably came periods of initial skepticism, total disbelief, and then grudging acceptance by the higher-ups who had heard of the device and had to see for themselves that its claims and kill rates were not exaggerated. Inevitably, also, came the period when the teams and the devices were "shown off" and became popular curiosities on the "must-see" lists of visiting brass, officials, and dignitaries.

During the second month of existence for recon team Spyglass Alpha, a certain unnamed general visited a more or less secure site and was unconvinced of the gadget's worth, since no obliging targets could be produced for his visit. The FO on duty spotted a water tank atop a hill at FSB Bronco, some 15 miles away. He sighted the crosshairs on the center of the

FO dropped 12 rounds of HE air burst on the hapless NVA observer.

The IOD was utilized to provide and direct air cover for compromised recon teams, emergency extractions when necessary, and provide security for units from small insert-team size to company and regimental operations, observe friendly positions and movements, river crossings, and emplacements.

A frequent practice was the "mooning" of any aerial traffic by certain recon OPs in Dai Loc Province. Entire hilltop OPs would come running to the sound of choppers or spotter craft, and "drop trou" to the consternation and disbelief of many an aviator. One afternoon, an Army colonel who had previously been mooned came to one IOD site and requested to observe some targets of his own choice. The team on duty gave him permission and stood by as he proceeded to take photographs through the lenses of the ship's binos. He then thanked the team graciously and left — three weeks later, a two-foot by three-foot blown-up photo poster was forwarded to the 1st Recon HQ, clearly revealing a bumper crop of "moons" beaming up at the Army colonel's air forward observer, who had buzzed the site twice at exactly 1600 hours, as per request from his XO. It was later generally understood that each man was cordially invited to autograph his particular contribution to the photograph — by the Recon CO himself.

When the laser range finder was activated, it emitted a pulse of visible red



Marine 1st Recon personnel relax while awaiting insertion chopper.

light which was quite discernible at night at any point on its path. When a beam "splashed" off a target at night, it created a split-second burst of red light, as if a noiseless explosion had occurred. More than a few drowsy sentries on guard duty were brought quickly back to alertness by "...some weird red burst of light..."

As with any other new advantage, the effectiveness of the fixed position IODs was somewhat compromised as local Vietnamese began to notice a correlation between the growing local VC body counts and the installation of this top-secret gear atop some of the OPs on the larger hills. For the most part, however, the IOD

Recon teams developed constantly changing tactics which consistently resulted in greatly increased confirmed KIAs for the 11th Marines Artillery Regiment.

As with any other tactical equipment, this particular instrument was ideally suited for many instances, and poorly for a few others. The training and aggressiveness of the teams mattered considerably, in that after the initial thrill of a new mega-buck play pretty wore off, inevitably, the number of fire missions, and subsequently, KIAs, dropped off and/or became ethereal in nature and substance, even though the "confirmed" KIAs were still, in some instances, maintaining their high numbers.

In all fairness, however, this sort of problem only occurred occasionally, and was in large part due to the rapid growth and gradual decline in esprit de corps of the IOD program: When commanders finally realized the potential of the concept, each and every one had to have a team in his organization, and the sudden demand far exceeded the existing supply of competent, trained, and conscientious personnel available.

As I write this, I am not sure as to the status of the IOD program, whether it still exists in latent form, or whether the concept is a viable part of USMC wartime reserve specialties. All the information contained herein that applies specifically to the device has been released periodically to the press in varying forms, so that the writing of this article violates no known contractual agreements to which I have been party, a la Frank Snepp.

In closing, it would seem that a program of this sort would work wonders if conducted within a rough brush/mountainous/veldt terrain situation towards a selective guerrilla eradication. If this sort of project were deemed useful to a friendly foreign power, the logistics and necessary personnel, would, I assume, be fairly easy to assimilate.

Personnel of the 3rd Bn, 5th Marines "directing" a Time On Target fire mission called in by IOD Alpha. Note "chairborne commando" Colonel with paper and cigar "supervising" the mission.



Rhodesians Refine The Counter-Ambush

Afternoon Firefight

by W.J. Pullin

The hot searing Rhodesian sun beat down on the soldiers sitting alert and watchful on the back of the truck. Behind them they could see the swirling dust clouds of the other vehicles in the convoy as they too struggled along the ill-defined road. The heat was oppressive and the speed at which the vehicle moved made for no breeze at all.

A thin film of dust had settled over everything, including the men's weapons. Although dust would not affect the weapons' operation, men still rubbed or blew on them. An inherent reaction to good training.

"This is your wife, your girlfriend, your right arm": the instructors had gone to great pains to ensure that they never forgot. They had not.

The road twisted like a serpent down the steep escarpment, treacherous with its loose rocks and sand. One mistake by the driver and the vehicle would plummet over the edge. Big boulders and starkly gaunt trees lined the roadside with vast patches of black where bushfires had done their work. There was no sign of habitation in this area; even the game had left. Much further on, near the great river, huts would be found. Water was too scarce to support life up here; only those

who could carry water would survive. The rains were still far off, a blessing and a curse. When all was dry, tracks were easily found, but the days were intolerably hot. When it rained, tracks were easily lost, but the days were cool.

The men all dressed in bush hats, light camouflage shorts and shirts, with either sandals or boots. They sat with feet braced against the steel sides of the vehicle, strapped onto the hard benches, swaying and jolting along with the whim of the road. The man on the mounted machine gun was cursing though; he had to stand behind the gun, swaying precariously from side to side.

The vehicle grunted through the gears. Sometimes the brakes became so hot that they slipped badly, and the driver had to change into first gear.

Packs and other equipment lay at the soldiers' feet. The essentials, ammunition pouches and two-way radios, they wore. Ambushes were a reality; the soldiers were not to be caught unprepared. Many would have preferred to walk, feeling vulnerable and exposed on the high backs of the trucks. A good thing to feel this way; it made for extra alertness. If any man looked "switched off" the NCOs soon woke

him up. A doze now could mean a life gone the next moment.

There was no sound from the men, no talking and no smoking. Each was engrossed in searching the bush as they drove. You had to look for the unlikely spots as much as the likely ones.

The vehicle directly behind had caught up and was too close. The big, burly sergeant waved the driver back and the distance increased again. There was no sense in both vehicles being caught in the killing ground in the event of an ambush.

The time was now 1700 hours, ambush time. The enemy knew that if they ambushed at about this time, follow-up would be difficult due to the failing light. The troopers were uneasy and wondered when the convoy would halt. It was obvious that, due to the bad road and the lateness of the hour, their destination would not be reached by last light. The air had turned cold now and the sergeant reached for his combat jacket. As if on cue the men followed his actions, reaching for their own.

There was a sudden shout from ahead, then a "shwoowh" and all hell let loose.

"Dwah!" An earsplitting explosion rocked the vehicle as a rocket detonated behind the tailboard.

Rhodesian troopers prepared for ambush.





Another version of the same type of situation.

“Brrrm, brrrm.” Automatic fire erupted from the brush on the side of the road.

“Dahdahdahda.”

The soldiers’ automatics flamed, the vehicle accelerated to clear the killing ground, and a few soldiers threw grenades. The vehicle behind them had stopped, its occupants leaping off the back, rifles flaming. Denim-clad figures in fear and panic could now be seen, running for their lives. One by one they were knocked over as if struck by huge invisible fists.

The first truck had now stopped as well, the men standing up, heedless of danger, seeking opportunity targets. The sergeant rallied his men and they drew around him at the side of the road. All facing outwards, as low to the ground as possible. The machine-gunner had been killed; his was the most exposed and vulnerable spot on the vehicle.

The sergeant detailed a trooper to fetch the MAG and mentally checked that all the others were there. Three “Gooks” lay dead in the road behind them, including the one who had fired the rocket; his launcher still lay next to him.

The sergeant spoke over his radio, “Hullo, Herbert one, this is Keith three. Do you read me? Over.”

The radio crackled in reply, “This is Herbert one. I read you fives. Can you move to a stop position about 500 meters to your southeast? We have spotted another gang, about five or six strong, and are following them now. Lay ambush at the stream junction that you will find at that point. Over.”

The big NCO looked at his map, nodded and replied, “Roger, out.”

The men ran with their leader. Thorns and branches snagged their clothing. They paid no heed to this; time was now all important. The other party, “Herbert one,” commanded by the captain, was obviously hoping to drive the terrorist gang towards the stream junction and they, as the ambushers, just had to be there first. The soldier with the machine gun found it heavy going and one of the men relieved him of a few belts. An awkward weapon to carry but when the real thing started, there was nothing better to be behind.

Captured terrorists, their eyes rolling with fear, had admitted, “When that gun starts to talk, we run as fast as possible.”

The stop position was now in sight. The men fanned out, checking the surroundings: all clear. The sergeant moved around, placing his six men in good fire positions, each with a wide arc of fire. The man facing the rear wasn’t pleased but knew the importance of his task. The seven soldiers lay quite still as dusk’s veil started to settle over the bush. They clutched their weapons, safeties off. Grenades lay close by. The machine gun was sited in the center; the gunner would initiate the action. A sweeping hail of 100 rounds was always a good method; if it didn’t kill the enemy, they sure as hell became well demoralized.

A noise up ahead. One of the men pointed to the right. He watched a little longer, then raised five fingers; he then reversed his thumb and gave the Roman death sign. This meant: five terrorists were approaching from the right. The trooper who had sighted them had eyes like a cat. The men lay tense, fingers curled around triggers, taking in the slack. Discipline was now all important; if one

man opened fire too soon the enemy would escape. Once more, good training prevailed.

The terrorists could now be seen, moving in haste, doubled over to present a smaller target. Unfortunately for them, they were too engrossed in escaping from the pursuing demons. The machine gun opened up, barking out a staccato tune. The rifles followed suit, big lead bullets tearing the undergrowth and bodies alike.

“Throw!”

Dark shapes filled with death sailed towards the enemy.

“Whaddup!” The earth heaved and chunks of metal added to the symphony of death.

All was quiet now; nothing moved. The men strained their eyes into the darkness: still nothing. The sergeant threw an illuminating grenade; all they saw was a huddle of bodies. A short command and the men moved forward, cautiously now, working in pairs. The man detailed to watch the rear still carried out his task with diligence.

The bodies were checked; one still alive, good, give him treatment. The rest of the group were dead, their lives wasted by their own stupidity. After all this time hadn’t they realized that it was absolute folly to transgress this nation’s borders? The radio was switched on; the follow-up party would be anxious for news. They would have stopped on hearing the firing and taken up a defensive position.

“Hullo Herbert one, this is Keith three. Contact, contact, contact.”



Anti-Stock Theft Force On A Rhodesian Ranch

Vigilante!

Part Two - Conclusion

by Roger L. Barnes

In autumn 1977, Roger L. Barnes was hired as a security-force member on the 760,000-acre Klipspringer Ranch in Rhodesia's Sabi River Valley near the Mozambique border. Their mission: to guard ranch stock from rustlers and to prevent terrorist infiltration from Mozambique.

Barnes soon adapted to the daily routine which began with morning patrols covering 80 kilometers via Land Rover. When a team member found fresh spoor, Barnes, the native trackers, and the security-force team began their chase, directed by the manager from headquarters or from his own Land Rover in the field.

The chase could be by vehicle or afoot. When lucky, members of the team could find an ambush site before the rustlers escaped. In the second part of his article, Barnes details chase techniques and some of the local problems which confronted his team.

Actual incidents of terr contact were few. One reason for this was the constant police and army activity on the ranch. The Rhodesian African Rifles, one of the elite infantry units, spent two weeks camped across from headquarters and launched operations by helicopter and Dakota aircraft. In March 1978, Rhodesia decided to make everyone jump-qualified to further mobility and reaction time. The airborne school in Salisbury was cranked up and going full blast, and everyone, with the exception of Grey's Scouts and selected clerical units, was ordered to participate. This included some of the police units so that when these units were on Klipspringer they could be airlifted into action on brief notice, and the problem of locating or the availability of paratroops was no longer a factor. In the beginning, the terrors were disconcerted to have what they thought were "leg" units in the area drop out of the sky on them.

We were aware that terrorists stayed at the *kraals* (villages) on the ranch, and we paid many surprise visits during the day and early evenings to try to catch them or at least keep them off balance as to our whereabouts. Our reputation was well known, however, and the locals kept close



Camouflaged F.N. was S.O.P. Found from interrogation of captured terrors that the first thing seen was dark blue F.N. rifles. Head scarves were better than hats because of dense stands of thorn bushes.

Birchenough Bridge is the largest suspension bridge in Southern Africa, and crosses the Sabi River, which in turn borders Klipspringer.



tabs on our movements. As a result, our only successes were during three- or four-day patrols and ambushes, and then we relied heavily on our trackers to help us in not disturbing the brush as we moved through an area. When an African is aware of his surroundings as he wanders, 90 percent of the time he will know if someone is in his area. Not all of the bush operations were on foot, though; 125cc Honda scramblers were used on many stock theft chases. They could go just about anywhere and do it quicker than horses or Land Rovers. The main disadvantage, though, was they could only carry one or two men, which meant if terrors were encountered it would be a very nasty affair indeed. Also, bikes were noisy, and the best they could do was follow hot spoor, because once the thieves heard their approach, they were long gone.

Horses were used by the BSAP Support Unit to hunt terrors and could have been very effective, had the police known what they were doing. The average Rhodesian policeman is quite good at his job of directing traffic, investigating theft, murder, etc. The one thing he is definitely not good at is being a grunt. It's not because they don't try; God knows there are large numbers of them blundering about in the bush. They are simply not trained to be soldiers, and with the British Victorian mentality of fair play and the mindless bureaucratic habits typical of cops the world over, they are constantly tripping over each other and many of those who are trying to get on with the war. Some examples:

Klipspringer, at 760,000 acres and bordered by one of the large Tribal Trust Lands on one side and Mozambique on the other, is hard to patrol effectively. Before I arrived, a "no-go" zone was designated several kilometers wide from the TTL border back through ranch property by the police and the natives clearly warned that anyone moving in this area would be shot. The main restrictions were that women could only be shot in the legs and of course children were to be chased and caught by hand. Shooting children is not my cup of tea and walking into a village after a firefight and seeing the children that had been caught in it bothers



Author puts new Rhodesian SMG, L.D.P., through its paces on Klipspringer shooting range.

hell out of me; some of it is probably because I have one of my own and I realize that kids, in their innocence, can be led into anything without even realizing the consequences — witness Vietnam. Adult women, however, are a different story; they know exactly what they are doing and like every other war carry food, weapons, and ammo to the terts. They

also carry messages and intelligence between units.

The security people had been rather successful in the no-go just prior to my arrival and we zapped a few more during some of my patrols. We also killed or captured a good number of cattle thieves and thefts were dropping from one a day to two a week. The police during this four-

month period, with 60 men operating out of our headquarters on horses and in vehicles had a score of exactly zero. Needless to say, the police were not too happy with us and when we finally zapped a woman at long range carrying a 25-pound load on her back it was just what they needed to halt our operations other than pursuit of cattle thieves. There

Most police officers on the ranch were youngsters, and unfamiliar with bush tactics.

M1A1 with ART scope was not suited to dense bush of Klipspringer in spite of the chameleon to keep flies away.





Left: Photo series shows anti-stock theft force searching deserted village to look for fresh terr sign. Note effectiveness of Rhodesian camouflage. .12 gauge Browning was used with 00 Buck ammo and favored by many. Author, left and center left, carries frag and Wille Peter grenades on webbing. S.O.F. editor Brown carries M1A. Rhodesians were greatly impressed with this weapon. **Lower Left:** Firearms practice was top priority. Here counter-ambush techniques are practiced from moving Land Rover. **Right:** Travellers in Rhodesia often must travel in convoy escorted by police with .30 Browning machine guns mounted in light trucks such as this Daihatsu. **Far right, upper middle:** Veldt soil was very rich and head-quarter homes all had vegetable gardens. Banana and papaya trees in background. **Right, upper middle:** Game on Klipspringer were enjoyed and appreciated, and they were a primary food source. These Impala were cropped to feed Rhodesian African Rifles unit operating near headquarters. Everything was used, even hoofs. **Far right, lower middle:** Voracious appetites of chameleons made them useful house pets. **Right, lower middle:** Members of anti-stock theft unit were allowed one zebra per year on ranch cropping permit. Rifle is debarreled Husquarna in .308 with 4 power Weaver scope. American fatigues were seldom worn as Rhodesians passed laws against all foreign cammo. Unique headgear on author's tracker is toilet seat cover preferred by him for warmth as well as looks. **Far right, bottom:** Taking "10" with S.O.F.! Though unable to read English, trackers enjoyed photographs of other people and countries. **Below:** Editor Robert K. Brown's visit to Klipspringer was celebrated with liberal amounts of Lion Lager, war stories and terrible jokes. Brown swears he killed the chicken because it drew an AK on him. We were unable to substantiate his claim as other chicken in group escaped, apparently with the AK.





One of the top combat pistol shots in Rhodesia, Bob Miller, puts author and George Bek through his personally designed course. Barnes' Colt

was even some talk of prosecution, but since they had the no-go law staring them in the face they decided the only thing to do was simply to keep us out of the no-go altogether.

On some of our wanderings in the southern portion of the ranch, we came within striking distance of Mozambique and it was very tempting to walk over and raise a little hell with the terts. We made the mistake of mentioning this over tea one afternoon with the district commissioner and were promptly informed that if caught we would be charged with 1) illegally crossing the border; 2) performing an act of war on another country; 3) smuggling weapons of war into another country; 4) smuggling weapons of war into Rhodesia on our return, and if we managed to injure or kill any terts or anyone else we would be turned over to the government of Mozambique as soon as Rhodesia was done with us!

"Besides," the D.C. said. "It just isn't done, old boy. There are certain niceties to be observed between belligerents."

There is a reward system in Rhodesia for weapons and terts turned over to the government. The money is quite good and it is probably this system that sparked rumors of bounty hunting in Africa. A rumor is exactly what it was and lest some-

one were to persist, neat little laws were passed to put such adventurous souls as fancied themselves bounty hunters in jail for awhile. More than a year after the event, the police were still interested in a couple of chaps who indulged in this practice during a brief stay in-country.

The BSAP also makes it difficult to collect rewards even when the claims are legitimate. We captured two terr recruits one day and the next we led the police to an arms cache composed of AK ammo, mines, and RPG launchers. For months we tried to collect several thousand dollars in reward money and were held off by all manner of excuses. Finally, when we got the claim to the DC in Salisbury, we were turned down because the weapons cache was found "due to police diligence!"

We finally reached an uneasy truce with the police after the mounted support unit was pulled out. After that though, we had at least two European police officers and a half dozen African constables rotating duty every few weeks. This was fine except the two officers were never more than 20 years old with little, if any, bush experience and the Africans couldn't shoot themselves in the ass if they sat on their rifle muzzles! The one and only terr contact these fellows had on the ranch was a good example.

The anti-stock theft force had been called out and were investigating an area several kilometers to the south of headquarters. Parnell, some distance behind myself and Bob Miller, called on the CB to let us know he had contacted the police on the military radio and they were to meet us at an intersection about 40 meters from the headquarters security fence. Bob and I started retracing our route in the Land Rovers, along the way picking up Nacuto and Skip, who had been ambushing a well-used path.

The CB crackled again, "Roger, this is Owen. We have spoor for 20 or more terts over your tire tracks, headed for headquarters. Do you copy?"

"Roger copied, E.T.A. your location in five minutes, out."

I jammed the vehicle in gear and took off, making Skip the world's first Land Rover jump qualified trooper as he did a near perfect PLF off the tailgate. I stopped and handed Bill a frag as Skip remounted. Once again we were off, and as we neared headquarters, Parnell radioed there was sounds of a fire in the direction of the fence. When we finally arrived at our R.V. point for the police there wasn't a sign of terts or police anywhere, just spent shell casings and tracks in a direction away from the fence line. It



.45 was combat modified by Colorado State Patrolman Bill Bidwell, and never failed to function under some of the worst conditions in Africa.

seems that as the police came to our meeting spot in their armored vehicle, the driver spotted terrors in his rear view mirror running across the road. With his shouted command the African constables commenced firing at almost point-blank range. The terrors returned a ragged volley as they ran for the bushes. No one was hit on either side and as the terrors disappeared in one direction the police, without stopping to reload, split for the front gate. If the terrors had been as switched on as the VC, we would more than likely have been ambushed even though we sneaked into the area on foot. Luckily, they had as bad a fright as the cops.

Lest I leave you with a bad impression of the BSAP, let me say that when they are not trying to fulfill a paramilitary role they are among the most efficient and respected peace officers in the world. Many of these officers have been accepted into the Hong Kong police department which takes very high law enforcement qualifications indeed.

Frustrations and hardships aside, my stay in Rhodesia was a rich experience. My wife joined me just before Christmas and during our trip to Victoria Falls our hotel came under mortar and 75mm recoilless rifle fire for 30 minutes, giving her a

rude welcome. Months later, we were jumped by 20 terrors while traveling in the ranch food lorry. Being under fire is a frightening experience even for combat veterans, and it brings out the best or worst in anyone. She never went anywhere without her Uzi submachine gun, even while in ranch headquarters, and on the two aforementioned occasions she acquitted herself bravely, and though shaken, kept a cool head. After being together six years, we came away from Rhodesia with a new dimension to our relationship, one that few couples find.

One of the hardest frustrations to take in war is the loss of friends. Lt. Bruce Thompson, 2 Bn, Rhodesian African Rifles, was killed by hostile action while operating from Klipspringer Headquarters. There were people on the ranch much closer to Bruce but I got to know him rather well, as he spent every furlough relaxing and hunting with the security force. He was considered the top troop in his unit and had more terror kills than anyone in the battalion. Aggressive in the bush, he was polite and unassuming in company. Bruce, you're a top trooper — so long, my friend.

I learned a good bit about Africans too, in particular the Shonas I worked with. My trackers were hard to understand at

first because their customs are so different. They are good people, though, hard working, honest and intelligent enough not to fall for the nonsense the commies are feeding them. One of my favorite questions for them was what Africans thought of Andrew Young and others who wished to "free" them and identified themselves with the Africans. The reaction was always the same, instant laughter at the thought that American blacks would try to identify with Africans. One man in particular asked me if Mister Young would come to the kraals to speak and to see the people and I had to answer, "probably not."

He looked at me for a moment, spat on the ground and said, "then this man is with the evil ones in Mozambique. The white man is very strange, he will let the evil ones walk among him. Much is made of voting in America and other countries, why do you not vote for other, good men?"

I had no answer for that one, because I've been wondering why for years.



SOF Sharpshoots The S.H.O.T. Show National Shooting, Hunting And Outdoors Trade Show

by N.E. MacDougald

READERS familiar with SOF may recall that we usually attend the annual National Sporting Goods Association (NSGA) Show each February. But this year, we attended the first Shooting, Hunting and Outdoors Trade (SHOT) Show held in St. Louis from 9 through 11 January 1979. It seems that in years gone by, gun and knife enthusiasts were disgruntled at having to wade through jock straps, tennis shoes, and bowling trophies to get to the heart of the matter. On the other hand, general sporting

goods buyers were put out by the presence of so many hardware dealers in the middle of their software. The answer was obvious: secession from the union. Thus was the SHOT Show born, and from the look of things, the offspring is well-timed and healthy.

First impressions were that the show was a weak sister to the NSGA Show. There were fewer manufacturers and fewer people than attend the NSGA Show and we were used to the ensuing hubbub. But after strolling the length and breadth of the huge convention

center, I found everything that would appeal to our readers was present. Nothing more, nothing less. Here was the hardcore of weapons and weapon accessories stripped of chaff. I took a hasty straw-poll of exhibitors and buyers and found that they agreed.

Like any large organization, there was dissension among the ranks, but rather than elaborate the ins and outs of corporate politics, the products or processes will be limelighted. SOF will also cover the forthcoming NSGA show in Chicago and report on it in a future issue.

STAINLESS .45

CROWN CITY ARMS, Dept. SOF,
P.O. Box 1125, Cortland, NY 13045,

(607) 753-0194, is the latest manufacturer to go the stainless route in the venerable .45 auto. The pistol, called the Condor, will be accompanied by stainless maga-

zines featuring a rounded follower. The thumb safety is of the extended combat type. Sights are high combat style and are adjustable for windage. Stocks are of smooth rosewood. The example I dry-fired had a crisp trigger with no creep and the overall finish was excellent. Crown will be sending SOF a sample for T&E in the near future. Look for the results in a forthcoming issue.

Crown also markets the Falcon, a Commander-length .45 auto; the Eagle, a steel Government Model; the Hawk, a steel Commander-length pistol; and the Swift, a steel Commander-length pistol chambered for 9mm or .38 Super. Last, and to me the most interesting, is the Hummingbird, a .22 match pistol. It is based on the highly acclaimed Kart conversion. Barrel and sights are stationary; thus there is no movement between the two during firing. Dry weight is 47 ounces, barrel length is 5.950 inches, the target pistol holds 10 rounds in the mag. and one in the tube. It meets all ISU specs for Standard Pistol. Price \$374.95.

Marcy and Terry Hudson, President and Vice-President of Crown City, were present to answer questions. It was a pleasure to discuss handguns with a woman who knows what she's talking about and who can be enthusiastic about technical innovations. Such a woman is Marcy Hudson.

Crown City's new Hummingbird.



BUSHMASTER ASSAULT RIFLE

GWINN FIREARMS, Dept. SOF, Box 1315, Bangor, ME 14401, (207) 848-3333, manufacturers of the Bushmaster pistol,

will be producing a .223 (5.56mm) semi-automatic rifle in the very near future. The rifle will weigh 6.25 pounds, will be 36.6 inches overall, will use a 30 round magazine, and will cycle between

800/1000 rounds per minute, depending upon the dexterity of one's trigger finger. It will cost \$339.95. A folding-stock version will sell for \$375.95.



Bushmaster's new .223 assault rifle with folding stock.

HOMEGROWN PPK/S

INTERARMS, Dept. SOF, 10 Prince Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22313, (703) 548-1400, will be manufacturing the PPK/S (through license with Walther) in the U.S. Bob Magee, Director of Advertising and Public Relations, says the American pistols will be available in .380 in August and will sell for about \$235, while the German counterpart will still cost over \$400. Plans are to market a stainless PPK/S in the future.

Also being marketed by Interarms is the Bersa pistol imported from Argentina. It is a .380, holding 13 rounds (like the Beretta) plus one in the spout. It will be available in August and will retail for about \$225.



R.K. Brown and Bob McGee with Bersa.

U.S. made PPK/S by Interarms.



Bersa auto imported by Interarms.



NEW KNIVES FROM AL MAR

AL MAR KNIVES, INC., Dept. SOF, 5861 S.W. Benfield Court, Suite SF, Lake Oswego, Oregon 97034, (503) 639-8554, has a new line of knives that it calls the "finest factory-made custom knives in the world."

But first a little about the man behind the blade. Al Mar became interested in judo in high school and has continued it since; he now has a third degree black belt. After a brief bout with college, Mar worked for the Department of Fish and Game in Alaska. He then returned to Seattle and became interested in outboard racing, then worked for Boeing for three years. After working as a mechanic for a couple of years, Mar returned to college. This time he attended the Art Center in L.A. and graduated with a Bachelor's and Master's degree in industrial design. Mar then worked for a consulting firm in Van Nuys, California, where one of his accounts was Gerber Knives. Mar was offered a job by Gerber and worked for them for nine years. Mar owes his expertise to the kindness of other custom knifemakers who helped him.

Mar's service background is as different as it is exciting. Just after high school, Mar participated in an Army program that only existed for about six months. The program consisted of six years active reserve, but no active duty. From 1956 on, Mar was in a Harborcraft unit in Seattle, where he began diving. After four years,



Al Mar's all-new knife line.

Mar became bored. He heard about a new Special Forces unit being formed in the Seattle area, and joined it. After jump school, Mar "played civilian" then went to survival school, "played civilian," then went to Ranger school. In short, Mar attended all the elite schools the Army had to offer during his eight continuous years in active reserve.

Mar's blades are made from "stain-resistant RS 30." According to Mar, the steel was especially developed for Masahiro Cutlery, Seki City, the sword-making

capital of Japan, and has been in use for about 25 years. He claims it is better than 440-C. Mar heat-treats all his blades to a Rockwell hardness of 57-59.

Bolsters of the folding knives are stainless with brass inner liners, scales are ivory colored paper micarta. Sheath knives have a full tapered tang for good balance.

Mar has promised to send the author a production knife for use and abuse. A test and evaluation report will be forthcoming. Literature available from Mar on request.

NEW MODEL GERBERS

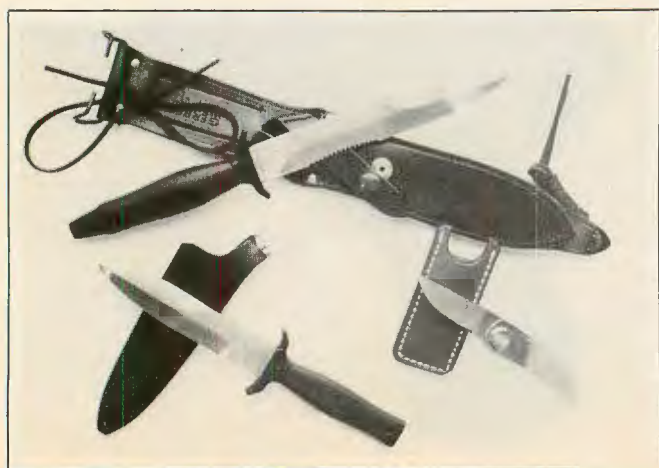
GERBER LEGENDARY BLADES, Dept. SOF, 14200 S.W. 72nd, Portland, OR 97223, (503) 639-6161, has a couple of new models that should appeal particularly to our readers. They feature black

anodized aluminum handles with vinylclad thermal covering that Gerber calls Armorhide®. The samples I examined were extremely gripworthy.

President "Pete" Gerber, an SOF subscriber, was on hand and talked energetically about the future of sporting

knives in America. James Raske, Executive Vice-President gave me a new Paul knife (model 2P) to evaluate. As of this writing, I haven't had a chance to skin anything or anybody, nor have I thrown it down the stairs or tried to whittle ebony, but if it cuts like it looks, it's a winner.

New Gerber sheath knives (unnamed) and folding Paul knife.



"Pete Gerber" chats with publisher Brown.



NEW FROM SPRINGFIELD

SPRINGFIELD ARMORY, Dept. SOF, Geneseo, Illinois 61254, (309) 944-5138, will be marketing a new survival over-and-under scatter gun/rifle combo based on the Air Force's WW II survival gun. The top tube will be chambered for .22 long rifle or for .22 magnum, the lower barrel will be a .410. The skeletonized buttstock has receptacles for about a dozen rounds of ammunition. The entire weapon will be fabricated from 4140 and will take-down into a package about 18 inches long. An olive drab pouch will be available and will fit a G.I. web belt. The production version of the gun will be parkerized and will retail somewhere in the neighborhood of \$120. And that's a pretty modest neighborhood these days.

Springfield's E2 stock was on display at the SHOT show and attracted some attention. The stock is beefier toward the butt and has a wooden pistol grip.

A bipod for the M1A, based on the government's original design, has quick-adjust stages for height and folds co-axial with barrel when not in use. Installation and removal of the bipod requires no tools.



Springfield's bipod, priced at \$48.



Reese brothers with M1A E2 (L) and new survival gun (R).

NEW PLATING PROCESS

THE TEXAS GUNSHOP, Dept. SOF, 299 Arapaho Central Park, Suite SF, Richardson, TX 75080, (214) 690-0143, offers a unique kind of nickel plating process. Ed House and son, Jeff, claim the following about their new process.

Ni-Tex, a product of several years of extensive research in the chemistry of electroless plating, will deposit an unusually

bright (or brushed stainless look), hard, corrosion resistant finish. It will coat cast iron, steel, alloy steel, stainless steel, copper and copper alloys, aluminum, titanium, beryllium, nickel alloys, and sintered metals without any intermediate coating processes.

Salt spray tests indicate properly applied *Ni-Tex* has a corrosion resistance which generally exceeds that of pure nickel. A 1 mil coating of *Ni-Tex* on

polished steel will not show rust for 96 hours or more of continuous contact. Furthermore, when failure occurs, the rust spots show no tendency to spread, indicating the rust does not spread under the *Ni-Tex* coating.

The average range of the adhesion of *Ni-Tex* to a base metal is between 30,000 to 60,000 lbs. per square inch. Tests also indicate that the adhesive force of *Ni-Tex* to a base metal actually exceeds its own cohesive force.

The *Ni-Tex* coatings have an average measured Vickers (DPH) microhardness of 500-600 (49 Rockwell C). Thus, in most cases, *Ni-Tex* is as hard as the base metal or even greater.

Since *Ni-Tex* is an entirely electroless process, (plating accomplished by a combination of heat and chemical treatments), it is possible to plate all exposed parts of a piece. Springs can be treated without loss of temper and interiors of barrels and chambers can be protected with coating of *Ni-Tex*. Our process, exclusion of intermediate plating with other metals (as with chrome) prevents flaking and/or plating separation common with other plating processes. This direct application minimizes excessive build-up which could affect close machining tolerances. A *Ni-Tex* coating requires a minimum of care as compared with common bluing and will outlast bluing.

An SOF staffer will have a gun processed and will report on it in a forthcoming issue.

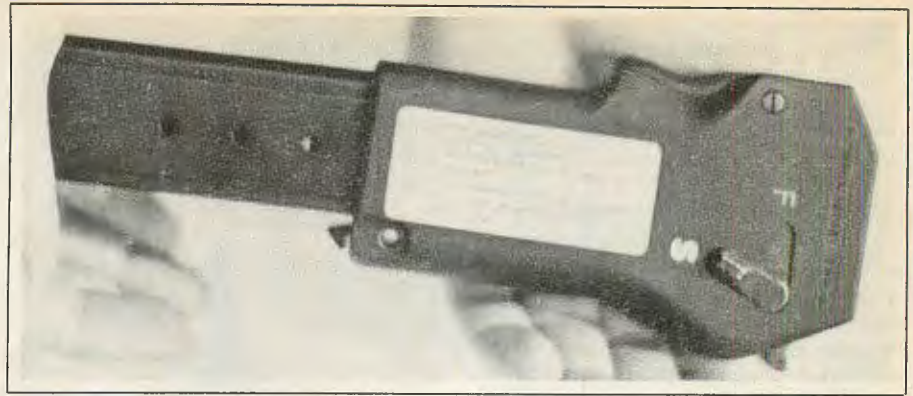
Colt autos processed with *Ni-Tex*.



NEW FROM HECKLER & KOCH

H&K's old model 26mm flare pistol (P2A1) is being replaced with a barrelless model that is about the size of a pack of 100mm cigarettes, called the Emergency Flare Kit. This new model apparently gave the BATF fits because it cannot be classified as a handgun. So be it. The Swiss Air Force (I didn't know they had one either) uses the Emergency Flare Kit and from what I know of the Swiss, the fact that they use it is high praise.

Also new is the PSP (Particularly Slick Pistol?), a DA 9mm auto that began on the drawing board: it is not a rehash of an existing gun. The first thing I looked for on the new weapon was the safety. After a few seconds I couldn't find it and felt a little foolish. Bob Scroggie, HK's manager of law enforcement sales, then explained that the PSP needs no safety as such. And that it is the only pistol allowed to be imported without a safety. The reason is simple enough when you think about it. The configuration of the pistol makes a discrete safety superfluous because the cocking lever (finger-grooved frontstrap)



New Emergency Flare Kit by H & K.

serves that purpose. The cocking lever is brilliantly constructed so that moderate tension is required to cock the weapon, while little or no tension is needed to keep the piece cocked. Thus you have the best of both worlds and trigger-pull is superb. The sights are light-acruing and consist of two white dots in the fixed rear sight and one dot in the drift-adjustable front blade. The weapon is reputed to fire

point-of-aim at 50 meters. As with most of HK's weapons, the bore is polygonal thus yielding a 7% to 10% increase in velocity. The gas-locked pistol, designed for the German police, will sell for about \$350 and will be available this summer from *Heckler & Koch, Inc.*, Dept. SOF, 933 N. Kenmore St., Suite 218, Arlington, VA 22201.



PSP with magazine (note holes).

H & K's new PSP with slide back.



Adman Garey and myself accompanied publisher Brown to St. Louis (The Gateway to the West) on 8 January 1979 for the S.H.O.T. Show's debut. From the onset, our visit was plagued by problems. Murphy's law prevailed (anything that can be fucked up, will be fucked up).

Upon arriving at our highrise hotel, we were greeted by a pleasant, brain-damaged clerk. After our patient publisher finally made the young lady understand our sleeping arrangements, we ventured up to our rooms. Our quarters looked out on smokestacks and refineries and was cooler than a meat locker, so we fumbled with the thermostat and our heater wheezed and groaned into action. It blew an anemic

ST. LOUIS BLAHS by N.E. MacDougald

stream of tepid air through a ceiling vent. Neither Brown nor I is a heating engineer, but we knew that most heating vents are floor-mounted because heat rises. We shook our heads and sought sanctuary in grog and grub.

We ascended to the hotel's rotating restaurant on the roof. The view confirmed what we suspected: St. Louis is singularly ugly. Our waiter brought water that tasted like treated sewage as we surveyed menus. We ordered knowing full well that the meal would be atrocious. We weren't disappointed.

And so it went. Cabbies were rude and charged what the traffic would bear (pun intended). Food was mediocre, service worse and smiles, like the sun, were weak and seldom seen.

Our last night there, we sought out a night club and wound up in a dump straight out of the 60s. Women sported bouffant hairdos and were crudely coy. Men looked like Sears or Wards mannequins and danced about as well. Even the bouncer looked disgenic. The joint filled up with all manner of dwarfs, clones, geeks and dirtbags who came to sit and drink a la the alien bar scene in *Star Wars*. We departed with light heads and lighter wallets and vowed never to return to the city with the arch.

Ed. Note: Murphy was an optimist.

CURIOUS COPS

PACHMAYR GUN WORKS, INC., Dept. SOF, 1220 South Grand Avenue, L.A., CA 90015, (213) 748-7271, gets inspected by a couple of police types as our photographer was chatting with customer relations rep Steve Yorba. Pachmayr has a new set of grips and a new forearm for the Thompson Contender.



St. Louis cops eye Pachmayr grips.

FOLLOWING are items that were not obtained at the SHOT Show, but are of interest to those following the state-of-the-art in weapons and related gear. From *Smith & Wesson*, Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 2208, Springfield, MA 01101:

STAINLESS .44 MAGNUM

Smith and Wesson will finally produce the venerable Model 29 in stainless steel. According to Smith, consumer demand precipitated production of the wheelgun, so if there is a weapon you think should be

manufactured, write the company in question.

The new 29, dubbed the 629, will be available only in six-inch barrel at first, but will be followed by an 8-3/8-inch barrel version shortly thereafter. The 629 should be available this fall at a price yet to be determined.

SOF will get one of the first test guns and report on it as soon as possible.

NEW S&W AMMO

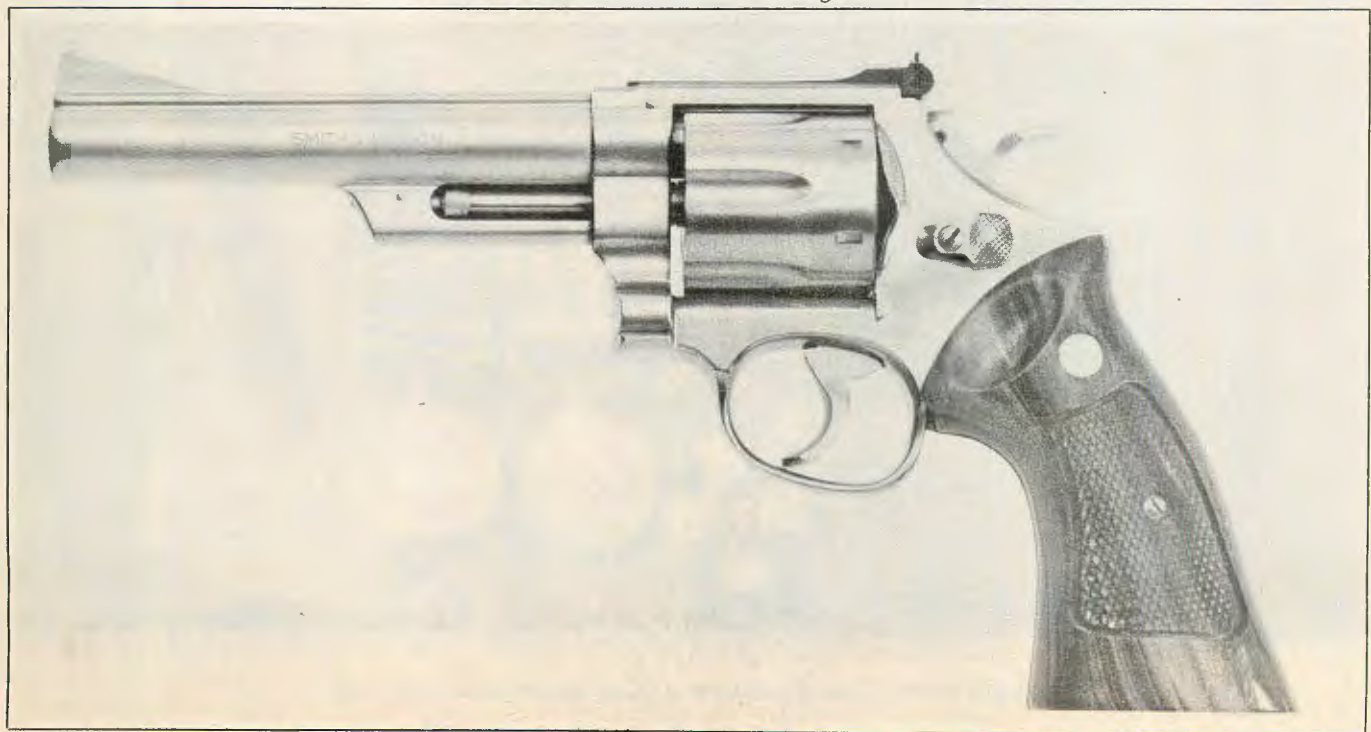
Smith and Wesson has developed a new type of nylon-jacketed bullet that

significantly reduces the emission of lead oxide fumes that pollute the air of indoor firing ranges. Called Nyclad, the new slug cuts airborne lead contamination by more than 60%, according to independent research.

The new projectile development was announced at the 85th Annual Convention of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, since a number of police training ranges have been closed because of this health threat.

Another benefit of the new bullet, according to the manufacturer, is that it virtually eliminates lead fouling.

S & W's stainless steel 629 .44 magnum.





Major Frederick Russell Burnham, D.S.O. Picture taken circa 1926.

Major F.S. Burnham, DSO

First Yank SOF In Rhodesia

by Major John S. Arvidson & Major F. Gerald Downey

About the authors: Major John S. Arvidson, USAR, Ret., is already known to SOF readers for his article on the French Foreign Legion which appeared in our January 1979 issue. During the Korean War he served as commanding officer of the 27th Raiders, U.S. Army. While in the Army he began his undercover intelligence work and after his retirement from the military served as a special agent for the California Senate Subcommittee on Un-American Activities. He is currently a special correspondent for Intelligence Digest.

Major F. Gerald Downey, USAR, served two tours in Vietnam as a combat commander. During his military career he completed Airborne, Ranger, and Special Forces training and performed various liaison assignments with civilian government agencies. After eight years of active duty, he left the military to pursue his education, graduating Magna Cum Laude in history and political science from Pepperdine University at the end of three years. He is a professional military historian.

Quickly aligning his Martini-Henry rifle sights on the black bulk of Matabele high priest M'Limo as he entered the ceremonial cave hidden in the Matoppo Mountains near Mangwe Pass, American soldier of fortune Fred Burnham made a slight noise, attracting the attention of the foremost enemy of Rhodesia's white settlers, and then fired — striking his target below the heart.

With the deafening report of the .45-caliber round reverberating throughout the rocky cave, Burnham and his companion, Native Commissioner Armstrong, dashed over the dying body of M'Limo, the "Mouthpiece of God," and exited from the holy temple of Matabeleland, panicking a group of black guards by the cave mouth in the process. Running toward their horses by a circuitous route to avoid ambush, Burnham and his companion paused to set fire to several huts and then galloped away over rough ground with 1,000 screaming Matabele warriors in hot pursuit. This was African assassination 1896 style.

One of the planners was Major Robert Baden-Powell, who later founded the international Boy Scout movement. The triggerman was Baden-Powell's model scout. That round squeezed off by Burnham was the most decisive shot fired in the Second Matabele War, eliminating the instigator of that bloody uprising which cost the lives of over 500 pioneers — 10 percent of Rhodesia's white population.

The execution was ordered by General Sir Frederick Carrington, commander of British forces in Rhodesia, whose final orders to Burnham were, "Capture the M'Limo if you can. Kill him if you must. Do not let him escape."

This difficult operation, involving deep penetration into enemy-held terrain, was to have been personally commanded by Baden-Powell — who at the last moment was taken off the mission and assigned to another sector. Burnham's success enabled Britain's famed empire-builder, Cecil John Rhodes, to successfully hold peace

negotiations with the Matabele chieftains a few months later in the Matoppo region.

Prior to the killing of M'Limo, Burnham had already gained fame as a scout during the First Matabele War in 1893, and it can be honestly stated that without Burnham it is quite unlikely that the present nation of Rhodesia would have ever existed! On New Year's day, 1893, Fred Burnham, his wife and small son, Roderrick, departed from San Francisco for a destiny in Africa which would help change the map of that continent. At the age of 32, he brought with him 15 years' experience as a professional scout, hunter, prospector, and Indian fighter in the American West to the service of Cecil Rhodes who was opening a new frontier on the dark continent.

Born on May 11, 1861, in the frontier hamlet of Tivoli, at the edge of the Sioux Indian reservation in Minnesota, Burnham narrowly escaped death the following year when Chief Red Cloud led his braves in an uprising which killed hundreds of white women and children, and which burned the town of New Ulm to the ground. Twenty years later, Fred Burnham was fighting Geronimo's Apaches in Arizona and served with such famed army scouts as Al Sieber, Archie McIntosh and Fred Sterling. He became a keen tracker, a master of escape and evasion, an expert at land navigation without a compass, a skilled marksman with rifle and revolver, and an accomplished demolitionist — which was necessary in his mining pursuits.

Burnham learned all the tricks of survival and lived off the land for months at a time in the mountains and deserts of the American Southwest. He never attended Special Warfare School. He didn't have to. He lived it all his adult life. Besides being blessed with keen eyesight, Burnham had outstanding night vision — which later became legendary among the Matabele warriors who named him "He-Who-Sees-in-the-Dark."

BURNHAM AND THE FIRST MATABELE WAR

King Lobengula, the corrupt, corpulent, paramount chief of the Matabeles, reneged on his earlier agreement with Cecil Rhodes, which gave the latter mineral rights to Mashonaland, a vast area which had earlier been conquered by the Matabeles. When Rhodes sent 500 white pioneers into Mashonaland in 1890, they freed the Mashona slaves and established settlements at Fort Salisbury, the old camping grounds of the famed white hunter, Frederick Courteney Selous, and Fort Victoria. Now, in 1893, King Lobengula sent his warriors across the border from Matabeleland into Mashonaland to seize cattle he claimed as his and to kill former slaves — which the Matabeles did on two occasions in the streets of Victoria.

On the last occasion, the Matabeles stated they would return a third time and kill the whites. Taken completely by surprise, the whites in Victoria quickly rallied and a force of 40 horsemen rode to the Matabele encampment two miles from town and fired into the 2,000 black warriors — killing their chief, Inyao, and numerous others. This Matabele *impi* (regiment) then recrossed the border and carried back their story of the white attack to King Lobengula at his capital, Bulawayo (which means "The Town of Killing"), where Lobengula often entertained his 68 wives by feeding his enemies to crocodiles.

Egged on by his subordinate *indulus* (chiefs) and his witch doctor, M'Limo, King Lobengula declared war on the whites. The Matabeles, a branch of the Zulus, were estimated to have 20,000 gun men and 80,000 spear men in the field. At this time, Burnham and his family were trekking north through Mashonaland toward Victoria.

Realizing that the best defense is the offense, the pioneers in Salisbury organized an armed column, numbering approximately 400 men, commanded by Major Forbes, and those in Victoria organized another column of approximately 300 men under Major Wilson, which struck out on their separate ways toward Bulawayo. Before reaching the Matabele capital, the two columns were to unite at Iron Mountain, inside Matabeleland. In advance of the Victoria Column rode Fred Burnham as lead scout, who crossed the



Shangani River, the boundary of Lobengula's kingdom, on October 12, 1893, and entered Matabeleland. His family remained behind in Victoria where every man, woman, and child were organized into its defense. Within the Victoria column were several Cal. .303 Maxim machine guns in what was to be the first combat test of that weapon or any other belt-fed machine gun. The combined force was under the general direction of Dr. Leander Starr Jameson.

Upon entering Matabeleland, Burnham led the Victoria column westward toward the rendezvous point at Iron Mountain, carefully evading several Matabele *impis*. Although the two columns missed each other, by constant scouting Burnham located the Salisbury column and the two groups were united as the Bulawayo Field Force under the military command of Major Forbes. The British colonial force lived off the land during its advance through Matabeleland toward Bulawayo. As Burnham put it in a letter to an old friend, "we raid, burn and destroy everything as clean as you did when you were one of Sherman's men marching through Georgia."

Advancing west from Iron Mountain, Burnham and his fellow scouts discovered a Matabele *impi* driving a large herd of cattle toward Bulawayo. The four scouts dashed down upon the Africans and, taking advantage of their surprise, succeeded in escaping to their own forces with 300 of the 500 head of cattle. Then, reinforced by 10 more scouts, they returned to the attack, retreating only after a pitched battle with more than 1000 Matabele warriors, who had been brought up to defend the *impi*.

On the night of October 24, while the column was *laagered* (camped) near the Shangani River, Burnham performed a

night reconnaissance mission and returned to rest under some trees outside of *laager*. In the predawn hours of October 25, the Matabeles attacked in force and the battle of the Shangani commenced — the first combat test of the Maxim machine gun. From his vantage point, Burnham gave the following description of the fight:

At about half-past two in the morning, a shot and a wild yell from the camp of the "friendlies" [Mashona allies] roused the whole force. Then came several scattering shots followed by the terrific war cry of the Matabele as they rushed our *laager*, and the battle of the Shangani began.

This was one of the most spectacular night fights I have ever taken part in; what with the double line of fire from the men lying on top of the large African trek wagons and those crouching under the wheels, the roar of the Maxims, and the continuous crack of several thousand hostile rifles that rimmed our entire *laager*. Over and above all the din of the firing rose the shrieks and yells of the friendly natives as they were swept against our *laager*, willy-nilly, to be shot down by our own Maxim guns. The firing continued until the light of day brought deadly accuracy to our rifles and enabled us to open the *laager* and with our mounted men sweep the grass and timber free of the enemy in the direction of Bulawayo.

Following the Matabele defeat, the British column of irregulars pushed on over rough terrain in the general direction of Bulawayo. Burnham and his fellow scouts found their job very difficult, with Matabele warriors hovering constantly on the flanks, impeding their advance, and cutting off any stragglers in the rear. What was worse was that no one in the column, including Dr. Jameson and Major Forbes, knew the exact location of Bulawayo. Some had visited it before, but from different directions. Accurate maps of the region had not yet been made.

Burnham and another scout named Vaversol were given the mission of finding Bulawayo. They left the column in the bush on the morning of October 28, and rode deep into enemy territory. Burnham skillfully evaded several ambushes and avoided native kraals until the necessity arose to interrogate some local inhabitants.

Through a feint, the pair of scouts drew off the local spearmen guarding a kraal and then galloped in to seize two prisoners. Using kindness rather than torture, Burnham acquired the information from his captives and then with Vaversol rode through a hastily drawn circle of the returning spearmen. Riding to a distant van-

tage point, Burnham finally spotted Bulawayo through his field glasses. On the return trip to the column, Vaversol's compass failed and Burnham relied on land navigation without compass, locating the British force on November 1. Forbes was leading the column in the wrong direction into certain ambush in heavy bush country. Acting upon Burnham's information, Major Forbes swung the column around.

Other scouts arrived on the scene while Burnham was reporting. The Matabele were advancing in force. The column barely had time to form a *laager* in some nearby open ground when thousands of screaming Matabeles burst forth from the forest to rush the white defenders. This was the Battle of the Imbembezi — the decisive fight of the First Matabele War.

The timely arrival of Burnham saved the column from certain annihilation in the forest along its former line of march. The position taken by the British, on ground located by Burnham and Vaversol, was probably the strongest position between Victoria and Bulawayo. In this daylight fight on November 1, the Matabele massed rushes were quickly cut down by the combined fire of the Maxim guns and some 600 white marksmen sheltered behind the hilltop *laager*. King Lobengula's Imperial Guard was decimated by the deadly fire. A charge led by the King's executioner came within several yards of the *laager* and his dead body marked the spot of the Matabele's closest approach. One account claims that the four Maxim guns, handled by members of the British South African Police (BSAP), took the lives of 3,000 Matabele spearmen out of the repeated charges of 5,000 black warriors during a 90-minute period. These guns, purchased by Cecil Rhodes for the BSAP, proved their worth in this campaign.

During the height of the action all of the British horses were stampeded for several miles. A sally led by Sir John Willoughby and Captain Borrow succeeded in recovering the herd. Had the Matabele turned their entire attention on capturing or destroying the horses, the punitive force would have been stranded and it is unlikely that any members of the expedition would have survived.

Upon the Matabele withdrawal, the field force broke *laager* and passed piles of black dead to form column and continue the trek toward Bulawayo. The col-



umn was within sight of the famous Mountain of the Chiefs (*Thabas Indunas*) when they were attacked again by Lobengula's *impis* on November 2. Another *laager* was formed and the mounted men were deployed outside the defensive work. This attack was easily beaten off. Smoke was now arising from Bulawayo and Burnham with two other scouts, Ingram and Poselt, were ordered into Lobengula's capital to see what was happening. From two white traders set free by the King, they learned that Lobengula had fled north.

After the occupation of Bulawayo by British forces on November 3, Burnham was sent south with dispatches to the nearest telegraph station at the Tati outpost, 128 miles south of Bulawayo through the rugged Matoppo Mountains by way of Mangwe Pass. He took with him Ingram and a black scout of proven courage who spoke the Matabele language. Dr. Jameson and other leaders in Bulawayo were deeply concerned over the whereabouts of the Matabeleland Relief Force of some 400 men, commanded by Major Goold Adams and guided by the famed hunter, F. C. Selous. Goold Adams' column had departed from Mafeking for Matabeleland at about the same time the other two columns departed from Victoria and Salisbury.

Nothing had been heard of this force and rumors among the natives in Bulawayo claimed that an army of thousands of Matabele warriors under Indula Gamba, Lobengula's son-in-law, had intercepted and destroyed Goold Adams' column. Burnham was also to discover what had happened, if anything, to the Matabeleland Relief Force.

Reaching the Mangwe Pass, Burnham and his party captured and interrogated some Matabeles and learned Indula Gam-

ba and his *impis* had been defeated by Goold Adams' force. A day later, Burnham picked up the trail of the relief force and followed it into Goold Adams' camp.

Selous had been wounded in the fight but nevertheless remained mounted to guide the column into Bulawayo. A fighter to the last, Frederick Courteney Selous fell in action on January 4, 1917, as a captain in the 25th Royal Fusiliers (Frontiersmen) during the campaign against the forces of Colonel Von Lettow-Vorbeck in German East Africa. Today, one of Rhodesia's elite units, the "Selous Scouts" — famed for its daring raids into Marxist Mozambique — bears his honored name.

With contact completed with the Matabeleland Relief Force, Burnham moved south again and reached the Tati outpost where he met for the first time the noted Boer scout, Johann Colenbrander — who during the Boer War would serve as a colonel with British forces to command "Kitchener's Fighting Scouts" during the campaigns of 1901 and 1902.

With his mission completed, Burnham returned with dispatches to Dr. Jameson brought up to Tati from Mafeking by Colenbrander. Burnham's return trip from Tati to Bulawayo on a fine horse took only 30 hours. Reaching Bulawayo, Burnham was ordered by Dr. Jameson to overtake a pursuit column headed north under command of Major Forbes.

TO CAPTURE A KING

Riding into the velt at night, Burnham and Ingram overtook Forbes' column near the Inyati Mission Station. Forbes' mission was to capture King Lobengula — a difficult task for his relatively small force. Burnham again was assigned as lead scout for the column of 240 mounted men. Normally, tracking King Lobengula would not have been very difficult for Burnham but the King's 50,000 head of cattle being driven north by Matabele warriors had obliterated the trail. Next, continued heavy rainfall all but washed the tracks away.

Under Major Allan Wilson, second-in-command of the column and former commander of the Victoria column, the best trackers in Africa — Hottentots and Masarwas from the desert, whose existence largely depended on their ability to



General Sir Robert Baden-Powell, founder of Boy Scouts and Major Burnham's superior officer. He directed the planning of the assassination of the Matabele witchdoctor M'Limo, in the Second Matabele War.

follow an antelope or recognize the faintest trace of small game — were assigned the task of finding the trail of King Lobengula's seven wagons. Also in the pursuing force were others especially trained in trailing: Boers from the Transvaal, Australians, and frontiersmen from all parts of the world.

The final tracking, however, depended on Burnham, Ingram, another American, and Bain, a Canadian. With heavy rain completely washing away all tracks, Burnham repeated his old technique of capturing a prisoner for interrogation — this time from the King's rear guard, fast asleep at night inside a native kraal. Only those who have participated in prisoner raids can appreciate the difficulty of this task. Burnham and his companions succeeded once again.

Burnham again picked up the spoor of the king and the pursuit continued. Suddenly, Burnham, Ingram, Bain, and their Kafir interpreter found themselves surrounded at point blank range by a large force of Matabeles. Burnham, through his interpreter, managed to bluff their way out of the trap after a tense and prolonged period of time, and rejoined the column. By December 1, King Lobengula had been tracked to within a few miles of the Shangani River. Forbes' column was exhausted and short of food. Worst of all, their horses were near death.

Although Lobengula still had thousands of warriors under his command; he was prepared to enter negotiations for his surrender and sent a sack of 1,000 gold sovereigns as a test of British intentions. If the British kept the gold and halted their advance where they were, then Lobengula would enter into negotiations. If the British kept the gold and crossed the Shangani River, then Lobengula would know that it was his life the British wanted and not the gold.

He sent this message by two warriors who carried the gold. Unfortunately, they skirted around Burnham and his scouts and approached Forbes' column from the rear where they gave the message and the gold to two members of the Bechuanaland Border Police. The two police troopers of the rear guard kept the gold and didn't bother to transmit the message. This negligence was to cost the lives of 35 whites and 500 blacks. The two police troopers were later court-martialed and given long prison sentences.



On December 3, Major Forbes sent a small force across the Shangani River in a final attempt to capture King Lobengula. This force eventually numbered 38 men and was commanded by Major Wilson. Burnham and Ingram served as scouts. Plunging into dense vegetation, Wilson's patrol soon learned that the area was thick with Matabele warriors. Shouting in their language, Wilson told them the war was over and asked to be taken to their king. Some of the warriors leapt away from their camp fires in fright while others cocked their muskets. Wilson nearly succeeded in his deception when a Matabele warrior guided him to a circular enclosure in which two of the king's wagons were located. The patrol lined up outside while their spokesman shouted to Lobengula in Zulu that his life would be spared and that he would return to Bulawayo and enter into peace negotiations.

By now night had fallen. There was no reply from the king's enclosure but the sounds of rifles being cocked could be heard clearly. Burnham noted that they were steadily being surrounded by large numbers of Matabele warriors. Major Wilson thought it best to retire at the moment and seek a safe position until reinforcements and the two Maxim guns from Forbes' column could be brought up.

That night was miserable. The patrol had become separated and Burnham had to backtrack in darkness to bring in some lost patrol members, which he succeeded in doing under heavy rain. Some reinforcements had arrived that night but no Maxims were with them.

With the coming of dawn on December 4, Major Wilson made his final attempt to capture the king in the face of thousands of hostile warriors. The patrol found the king's enclosure empty, but a nearby warrior fired a single shot, which was follow-

ed by a scattered volley. Fred Burnham described what happened next:

He fired at me and missed. I headed my horse toward him, holding my rifle with one hand. He was slightly disconcerted and halted to reload. His bandolier was carried across a leopard skin which he wore over his shoulder. I could see that in his haste he was tugging at a cartridge to pull it out instead of lifting it with the tip of the finger. Every second I was coming nearer. The failure of his rifle unnerved him, and quick as a flash the warrior threw it down and with one long sweeping movement drew from the inside of his shield his stabbing spear. We were now only a few yards apart. Having very strong wrists, I can easily poise a Martini rifle in one hand much as I would a revolver. As I saw him draw back his right arm to drive the spear through me, I put a shot directly into his left side, which crumpled him. Instantly, all the spearmen jumped back into the bush, on seeing their leader fall in such a duel with a Martini. If they had but come on, they could have avenged the fall of their induna during the precious three seconds it takes to reload. I afterward learned that my opponent was the son of M'Jaan, the commander of the king's forces.

Major Wilson's entire patrol was now under fire as it fell back to an ant hill to form a perimeter defense against the Matabele, who charged into the open once again. Rush after rush was beaten off by the dismounted troopers. As one flank of the position became exposed, Wilson ordered his men to remount and fall back to the timber where the column was reformed. During this period of withdrawal, Burnham's rifle was shot from his hands but it was recovered.

The patrol then marched unmolested for a mile. Again, the Matabeles began to close in. Major Wilson then ordered Burnham, Ingram, and Gooding, an Australian, to try to break through the hostile line to reach Forbes' column at the Shangani and bring up Maxims. While Wilson's men again formed a perimeter defense, Burnham skillfully led his two companions through the screaming Matabeles and evaded the hostile pursuers to eventually reach Forbes' position south of the Shangani River which was also under Matabele attack.

Forbes was hard pressed and Burnham and his companions helped him fight off the last attack on that morning of December 4. Like Major Reno at the Little Big Horn, he was fighting for life and no aid to Major Wilson was possible. Wilson and his 34 companions died that morning, being repeatedly assegaied as they lay dead or mortally wounded — the Matabele took no prisoners. Before they went under, however, Wilson and his patrol

killed 500 Matabeles. King Lobengula managed to escape his pursuers but he died the following month from smallpox. Major Forbes' retreat back toward Bulawayo began on the morning of December 5. Johann Colenbrander led the advance guard and Fred Burnham again served as lead scout. The men were exhausted and their horses were dying of

starvation. The slow-moving column was constantly harassed by Matabeles and the Maxim guns had to be removed from their wheeled mounts. This necessary manhandling of the Maxims ultimately led to the use of the tripod mount. Dummy guns were placed on the abandoned wheel mounts to deceive the Matabeles. Ammunition was very low and the starving

horses were being eaten for food. On December 14, the column was several miles northeast of the Inyati Mission Station when Frederick Courteney Selous and another scout from a relief patrol out of Bulawayo made contact with Burnham and the column. The long ordeal was over and after a reasonable rest Forbes' column returned to Bulawayo.



Scouts in Rhodesia. Burnham is fifth from left, kneeling. His brother-in-law, Ingram, is first from left, standing.



Peace was concluded in early 1894 when Induna M'Jaan, who succeeded King Lobengula, accepted the surrender terms.

In making the final appeal to his tribe on behalf of peace, he said, "If 35 young white warriors can kill 500 of us Matabele before we can kill them, how can we expect to win when the bearded white men come from over the sea to ask who killed their *infaans* (youths)?"

By the right of conquest, Cecil Rhodes annexed Matabeleland. Combined with Mashonaland, this new frontier was unofficially named Rhodesia in 1895. The name became official in April, 1898. A total of 1,774 armed civilians and British regulars took part in the First Matabele War (by official count). Cecil Rhodes granted every participant the right to a farm of 6,000 acres, a mineral right of 20 acres, and an equal share in King Lobengula's cattle. To the victors went the spoils. Burnham moved his family to Bulawayo, and then proceeded to prospect for gold. At the ancient ruins of Zimbabwe, known to Sir Rider Haggard as the King Solomon's Mines, Burnham discovered a quantity of gold — a bar of which he presented to Haggard.

THE SECOND MATABELE WAR

Burnham landed at Cape Town on March 25, 1896 the day after the paramount Matabele witch doctor, M'Limo, had decided that the time was right for a massive native uprising by both the Matabeles and Mashonas.

Although rumors of the planned uprising were rife, white settlers were caught unprepared and unarmed. Over 500 white Rhodesians were to die in M'Limo's campaign of genocide. Most of the bloody work against white settlers was to have been carried out by their black servants — and this was done to a limited extent.

The uprising was planned to occur on the full moon, but three days in advance, on March 24, young Matabele warriors on the Insesi River, 45 miles from Bulawayo, became impatient and began killing white settlers. M'Limo had promised that he could turn the white man's bullets into water and many a Mashona and Matabele warrior fatally believed him. Bulawayo and other locations were besieged.

Proceeding north from Cape Town by rail and horse, Burnham finally reached Bulawayo, where he became chief-of-scouts under Colonel Napier. The uprising was more than the Rhodesian settlers could handle and British regulars were called in under the overall command of General Sir Frederick Carrington, with Major Robert Baden-Powell as his chief-of-staff. Burnham and his wife were deeply grieved over the loss of their daughter, Nada, who had died as a result of the hardships imposed by the siege of Bulawayo. Nada Burnham, less than three years old, was the first white born in Bulawayo. When Burnham was given the mission to capture or kill M'Limo by General Carrington, he remembered Nada before he squeezed the trigger of his Martini.

Another innovation developed by Burnham during that campaign was the technique of removing propellant powder from Martini-Henry cartridges, replacing it with high explosive, and then permitting the booby-trapped ammunition to fall into Kafir hands so that the resulting explosion would destroy the rifle and often the firer as well. Later, on several occasions during the fighting on the Northwest Frontier of India, the British Army repeated this trick.

The assassination of M'Limo by Burnham in June, 1896, was described at the beginning of this article. Hearst correspondent Richard Harding Davis declared that "This exploit was one of the chief factors in bringing the war to a close, since the Matabeles, finding their leader was only a mortal like themselves, and so could not, as he had promised, bring miracles to their aid, lost heart."

Following the Matabele surrender, the war against the rebellious Mashona tribes continued until October 31, 1897, when the last of the rebellious blacks were brought to terms. Fred Burnham, his wife and two sons returned to California.

THE SPELL OF THE YUKON

Burnham did not remain long in California after gold was discovered in the

Klondike in 1897. He engaged in considerable gold prospecting and made the first delivery of gold from the Klondike to England. Burnham continued his mining endeavors until he learned of the outbreak of war between America and Spain. He rushed down to volunteer for Roosevelt's Rough Riders but by the time he reached Seattle the war was over. He returned to Skagway where he spent the winter.

Rumors of renewed warfare came from South Africa, and on October 11, 1899, war broke out between the Boer states and Great Britain. Shortly after, Burnham received the following telegram:

Lord Roberts appoints you on his personal staff as Chief of Scouts. If you accept, come at once quickest way possible.

Leaving Skagway 2½ hours later on the steamer, *City of Seattle*, the same ship which had delivered the message, Burnham and his family were on their way to Africa.

THE BOER WAR

A major cause of the Boer war had been an abortive attempt in 1895 by Dr. L. J. Jameson and others of the British South Africa Company (BSAC—Rhodes' chartered company) to annex the independent Boer South African Republic (the Transvaal). Jameson had planned to seize the Transvaal by force, combining a raid of some 1,500 white Rhodesians with an uprising in Johannesburg of some 3,000 *Uitlanders* (foreigners) dissatisfied with the government of President Paul Kruger. While the BSAC began smuggling rifles into Johannesburg, Jameson began mustering his raiders.

The plan was a colossal blunder from beginning to end. Although the Johannesburg uprising had been delayed until after the new year, on December 29, 1895, Jameson made a night invasion of the South African Republic with 494 men, eight Maxims, and three light field-pieces. They were ambushed by Commandant Piet J. Cronje's commandos at Doornkop on 2 January 1896, and forced to surrender, after losing 134 killed in a breakout attempt. The eight Maxims, captured in this fiasco, were used against the British in the Boer War.

Fighting went badly at first for the British forces. On October 16, Commandant P. J. Cronje's Boer forces, who had



captured Jameson, engaged the British, command by Colonel Robert Baden-Powell, at Mafeking. Mafeking came under siege. On October 27, Ladysmith was invested, and on the same day Kimberley, with Cecil Rhodes inside, was cut off also and came under siege.

British forces were being defeated or besieged on every front. On December 18, 1899, Field Marshall F. N. Roberts was called out of retirement after 41 years active service in India and appointed Commander-in-Chief in South Africa. On Lord Roberts' staff was General Sir Frederick Carrington, who described Burnham to Lord Roberts as "the best scout we ever had in South Africa!" Lord Roberts then decided to send for Burnham.

Major Burnham's first actions in the field as chief-of-scouts centered on the relief of Kimberley, where his old boss, Cecil Rhodes, was besieged. Though cut off by Boer forces, Rhodes managed to maintain his own private intelligence and communications services, and even maintained contact with Lord Rothschild in London.

The Boers were particularly keen to capture Rhodes and display him in a cage. Burnham's reconnaissance efforts became centered on the Boer forces of General P. J. Cronje, which included those besieging Kimberley. Revenge was sweet on February 27, 1900, when Cronje and 4,500 of his men surrendered to Lord Roberts, who, on March 1, entered Kimberley. Burnham personally conducted mission after mission behind Boer lines in the course of his duties, which were coordinated by Lord Roberts' intelligence department.

He successfully carried out five rail interdiction missions behind Boer lines —

cutting the railway to Pretoria, the Boer capital. On his last mission, carried out at night, his horse was killed while at the gallop during a fire fight deep behind enemy lines. The horse fell on him, knocking him unconscious for 24 hours. Although critically injured, Burnham dragged the explosives from his dead horse and completed his mission. Narrowly escaping capture, he finally reached friendly positions — more dead than alive.

Invalided to London on the *Dunnottar Castle*, Burnham discussed escape techniques with young Winston Churchill. In England, he was the guest of Queen Victoria at Osborne. Shortly after the Queen's death in 1901, Burnham was personally decorated with the Distinguished Service Order by King Edward VII at St. James Palace, and his rank as major in the British Army was confirmed by the King without loss of his American citizenship.

FURTHER ADVENTURES OF MAJOR BURNHAM

After sufficient rest and recuperation in London, and having been declared healthy by the surgeons, Burnham went back to work for Cecil Rhodes and, in late 1901, carried out an expedition in the Gold Coast Colony in Africa. In 1902, he conducted a survey of the Upper Volta River, and explored the Congo basin region in 1903 and 1904. Burnham returned to Pasadena, California, in 1904, and the following year, after another trip to London and on to Germany, he went to

work in Mexico for John Hays Hammond, where he opened copper and silver mines in the state of Sonora. He worked with Hammond in diverting the Yaqui River through canals into a 700-square-mile delta. In 1908, Burnham discovered the Mayan ruins in the Yucatan Peninsula.

With the outbreak of World War I, and prior to American entry, Theodore Roosevelt planned to raise and lead a division of volunteers and selected Burnham to raise a battalion. Burnham and Teddy Roosevelt had been friends long before the Spanish-American War.

In 1901, President Roosevelt had written, "I know Burnham. He is a scout and a hunter of courage and ability, a man totally without fear, a sure shot, and a fighter. He is the ideal scout, and when enlisted in the military service of any country he is bound to be of the greatest benefit." Theodore Roosevelt's plan regarding the Roosevelt Division in France fell through. Instead, Major Burnham spent World War I directing a systematic exploration of the American Southwest to locate tungsten and manganese for the war effort, financed by A. Kingsley Macomber, who had been with Burnham as a young man in Africa.

The hero of Mafeking, General Sir Robert Baden-Powell, died in Keyna in 1941. Major Frederick Russell Burnham, D.S.O., followed a short six years later on September 1, 1947, at the age of 86. Major Burnham's story is important not merely because of the interesting reading his exploits provide but because it signifies the stake United States citizens have had in the affairs of Rhodesia since that country's inception — a stake which continues today as Rhodesians courageously fight against communist encroachment of their borders.



IN REVIEW



THE COUNTERINSURGENCY ERA: U.S. Doctrine and Performance 1950 to the Present. By Douglas S. Blaufarb. The Free Press, A Division of Macmillan Publishing Company, Inc., New York, 1977. \$12.95. 356 pages with Bibliography and Index. Review by James K. Bruton, Jr.

Most of us who fought in Southeast Asia express two general complaints. First, we lost. Secondly, and equally distressing, is the limited effort currently on the part of the U.S. military establishment and the various government agencies to derive a list of lessons learned from the defeat.

"Effective counterinsurgency," writes former CIA officer Douglas S. Blaufarb, "avoiding the brutalities of unadorned suppression, and seeking to deal with the genuine issues in a sophisticated manner which does no damage to our moral and democratic principles, is a complex and difficult maneuver for which the United States has shown no talent." What experience and lessons the U.S. did acquire in the 1960s, he adds, "will largely be lost if no central authority exists to exhume them, re-examine them for lessons, and apply the lessons as appropriate."

Fortunately, Blaufarb represents a handful of articulate and responsible writers who are beginning to produce some balanced analyses of deficiencies inherent in the U.S. command structure and policies, of the inadequate strategies applied, and of the general failure of political nerve. Blaufarb's **The Counterinsurgency Era**, which appeared almost unnoticed a year-and-a-half ago, is beginning to attract increasing attention.

This book has three qualities to recommend it. First, it is honest, non-sensational, and avoiding of liberal clichés, while presenting broad but clear interpretation of the doctrine, applied or misapplied, that guided U.S. action in Southeast Asia in the 1960s. Second is that it provides a general overview of programs and operations that many readers of *SOF* participated in. Third is its excellent nine-page bibliography.

The author has served in the CIA for 20 years with assignments in Asia (as station

chief in Laos, 1964-66), and elsewhere, and in other consultative capacities. Blaufarb relies both on his own experiences and on non-classified published materials to describe several glaring dilemmas inherent in attempted U.S. application of counterinsurgency doctrine mainly in Laos, Vietnam and Thailand.

Counterinsurgency doctrine (a.k.a. internal defense/internal development or "stability operations") coalesced in the early Kennedy years as a coordinated economic, psychological, and military response to the threat of a Maoist style "people's war." The President and his advisors proceeded on the apparently valid belief "that the Communist world was unrelentingly expansive, that Maoist people's war was the preferred instrument of the Communists for the further expansion of their movement in the nuclear age which had rendered all out war inconceivable, and finally that the less-developed world would be the scene of the critical struggle between Communist and non-Communist forces in which the side that mastered the secrets of people's war would win."

Today clear historical hindsight reveals that the "Maoist insurgencies, or in Moscow's case, wars of national liberation, will be supported and instigated in accordance with the needs and interests of the supporting power. No overriding strategy exists to orchestrate a global threat based on a cunning technique for mastering the obstacles to power in backward countries." Until now every attempted Communist insurgency has borne the stamp of inevitability.

The origins of Washington's counterinsurgency policies trace back to the period from 1948 to 1961 encompassing wars in Greece, the Philippines and Malaya. Looking at these three cases of successful counterinsurgency, the Kennedy advisors developed an exaggerated sense of the amount of "leverage" the U.S. could apply to encourage or force a host country to generate effective leadership or internal reform. Unlike the U.S. in VN, the British in Malaya "had only themselves to consult and to direct." Spontaneous internal leadership developed in Greece and the

Philippines almost independently of U.S. instigation.

Two unresolved military dilemmas that revealed themselves during the counterinsurgency craze of the early 1960s were these: ingrained in the U.S. military is the objective of efficiently managing all personnel and material assets for the ultimate purpose of concentrating forces and firepower at the right time and place to overwhelm the enemy. ("Find 'em, fix 'em, fight 'em, finish 'em.") Counterinsurgency doctrine was *reductive* in that it called for stripping down combat units to small, lightly armed mobile forces on constant patrol with some larger back-up forces available — "but nothing as sizable as a division or even a brigade concentrated at one time and place."

The military response, on the other hand, was *additive*: it sought to make counterinsurgency combat, i.e., counter-guerrilla tactics, an addition to its other conventional missions. The immense firepower organic to a conventional unit in a counter-guerrilla role, however, was to be used "discriminatingly." The alternative, never actualized, to using conventional forces in counterinsurgency was to designate units with counterinsurgency as their principal mission, "whether these were marines, airborne, or rangers . . . leaving the bulk of infantry to perform its conventional functions in the accustomed manner."

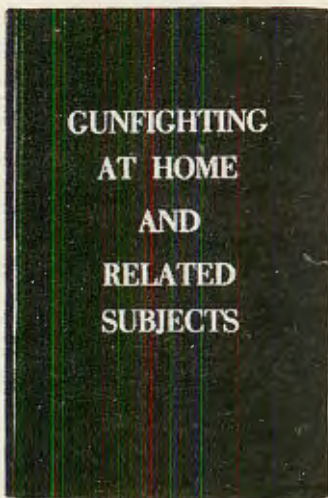
The second dilemma involved the use of Special Forces. SF was organized to mobilize, train, and advise or lead guerrilla forces in a resistance or in a counterinsurgency role. In Southeast Asia originally under CIA auspices, SF concentrated predominantly on remote area tribal minorities with a natural antipathy to the Communists. Organized minorities fighting as irregular auxiliaries in support of the host government can be an important counterinsurgency element, but SF type action by itself is not the complete answer.

Misplaced reliance on SF effectiveness reveals the fallacy that the late Bernard Fall referred to as trying "to out-guerrilla the guerrilla," without getting to the roots of the problem of weak indigenous leadership, legitimate popular grievances, and a

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politicized, and therefore ineffective, incompetent military and civil service. For this reason, the paramilitary branch of the CIA along with Special Forces contingents has repeatedly had a series of short-term successes, but long-term failures throughout the world when directly operating elite units outside the normal and generally inept command structure of a particular host country.

The Vietnam War "was fought as two separate conflicts despite the fact it was only one." The hybrid organization called MAC-CORDS saw the various civilian and advisory agencies pushing pacification programs while the military was trying to apply increasing increments of firepower against the elusive enemy, only to impact so severely on the civilians as to rupture the social fabric. The massiveness of U.S. military presence exacerbated pro-Communist nationalist feelings of the Vietnamese while the inexcusably poor psychological preparation of the troops and the resulting callousness, if not contempt, of the military machine toward the Vietnamese and their culture produced the exact opposite results that counterinsurgency espouses.

While the following criticism is an anathema to the traditional military professional, Blaufarb suggests that the CI role of the military should be subordinate to the civilian pacification apparatus, as occurred with the British in Malaya.

Blaufarb examines the various VN programs initiated or matured under the direction of CORDS from 1967 to 1972, that followed the earlier Strategic Hamlet and New Life Hamlet fiascoes. These included Revolutionary Development, upgrading of Regional and Popular Forces, the Phoenix Program, development of Special Branch and Field Force Arms of the National Police, Census/Grievance and Aspiration Program, Chieu Hoi, and Marine Combined Action Platoons.

The trauma of the '68 Tet Offensive finally mobilized the Vietnamese, who under the personal direction of President Thieu (to his credit) accomplished a massive land reform plan, restored local government to elected village councils, conducted national training of hamlet and village leaders, created additional civilian militia (People's Self-Defense Force), and effected local economic development. These efforts by 1972 essentially broke the back of the Vietnam insurgency as a "people's war," resulting in total shift to conventional warfare by the North Vietnamese. The CI doctrine as finally evolved in VN could be called a partial success.

While the populace ceased to support the Viet-Cong, their support of the Thieu government could be described as wide but not deep. Two critical underlying dilemmas remained unresolved. First was the urban/rural gap in which the peasant or villager felt totally estranged from the governing structure of the country. (This problem was a basic cause of the whole

struggle.) Most officers and GVN officials came from urban-educated backgrounds.

The strength of the Communist Party (in China as well as in Vietnam), on the other hand, rests its ability to develop from among peasants, workers and villagers a grass roots network of leaders. It thrusts responsibility on a selected individual, stimulates his sense of participation in the decision-making process and of his involvement in something of national magnitude, and gives him a feeling of having some stake in the outcome of his efforts. A competitive parallel approach by South Vietnam never materialized.

This touches on the second unresolved dilemma, that of stability vs. government reform. To reform a government during an insurgency is risky. That is, by trying to depoliticize the military and civil service to turn them into professional organs, the head of government, such as Thieu, risks undermining his own base of support and creating large-scale disaffection and potential instability in the command structure. In VN, the U.S. too opted for stability over reform, thus reducing the sought-after popular support and involvement in government efforts. In 1969-1972 while the overwhelming majority of South Vietnamese were correctly perceived as identifying their well-being with GVN rather than with the Communists, one essential element was missing, namely, their sense of involvement in the decision-making process.

"In the end, the peasant was left to his own resources, with no organization to speak for him above the village level. The government thus failed ... to create among the peasantry a strong, positive motivation to engage in the struggle on the official side."

This review thus far has focused on counterinsurgency as applied to Vietnam. Blaufarb also devotes two chapters to the so-called "secret war" in Laos and to counterinsurgency in Thailand. A short-term success, the deployment of irregular Meo and Lao forces, later augmented by over 12 Thai volunteer battalions, took a heavy toll of the NVA in Laos. Referred to by Blaufarb as a popular counterinsurgency movement, the Meo resistance to NVA and Pathet Lao incursions "was fought as no other war in American experience, directed not by the military but by an ambassador and his staff, by a secret intelligence agency with the assistance of a relief and development organization." While the war in Laos served as a side show to U.S. objectives in Vietnam, the tragedy fell in the eventual decimation of Meo people, and their ultimate abandonment by the U.S.

Looking at the firepower fixation of the American military in Vietnam, the Thais rejected much in the U.S. counterinsurgency doctrine in theory if not in practice. Thailand's army and civil service are highly politicized, and the preponderance of the Royal Thai Army remains

in a conventional posture. Yet mainly on their own initiative the Thais have implemented some effective programs for the economically deficient remote areas. Thus far, the Communist insurgency while still alive in Thailand remains a manageable threat.

It is hoped that this book, **The Counterinsurgency Era**, will be read by persons in key policy-making positions, lest the lessons acquired from our counterinsurgency experience be lost.

THE HIT TEAM by David B. Tinnin with Dag Christensen, Dell Publishing Co., Inc., 1 Dag Hammarskjold Plaza, N.Y. 10017. Paperback, \$1.95. Copyright 1976, 1977 by David B. Tinnin. Review by Mark K. Roberts.

It often seems a fact, and to some a disconcerting one, that when one publishes anything on Israel and the Israelis, objectivity must fly out the window. Paeans of praise are required to flow heavenward. At least, that appeared to be the case until David B. Tinnin teamed his investigative reporting ability with the literary skill of Dag Christensen.

The Hit Team explores the realm of covert intelligence and direct-action missions with an all-seeing eye. The anatomy of the creation, training, and field operations of a previously little known special section of the *Mossad Alayah Beth* undergoes, at the hands of Tinnin and Christensen, a meticulous dissection that will delight every espionage buff, former member of the "business," and armchair adventurer for years to come. Underlying the inception of this crack team of assassins was the step-up in PLO terrorist activities, beginning with Black September's moves in 1971.

Perhaps it is Tinnin's long association with the *New York Times* where editorial opinion and bias have long replaced objective reportage — that compelled him to spend 48 precious pages outlining the origins and activities of Black September and the Israeli reaction to them. In particular the authors dramatize the last fateful hours in 1972 when the infamous massacre of Israeli athletes in Munich electrified the world. Perhaps they felt it obligatory to justify to the reader that acts of terrorism — including bombings and assassinations — committed by agents of the *Mossad*, were necessary, even righteous, while the same measures undertaken by anyone else were heinous international crimes. Whatever the case, once past this mental trampoline act, the book really begins to move.

In September of 1972, following the horror of Munich, Prime Minister Golda

Meir gave the go-ahead to Yariv of the *Mossad* and General Zvi Zamir to establish a special unit of killer squads who would hunt down and destroy Arab terrorist leaders wherever they might be. Despite, as much as because of, the tragedy of the Israeli athletes, this was a hard decision for Mrs. Meir to make.

For months prior to the murder of Israel's Olympic team members, General Zamir and others had urged this plan. Prime Minister Meir had resisted it, lecturing the advocates of the plan that the risk to Israel's image in the world far outweighed the advantages of killing a few Arabs.

Historically, it should be noted that her objections were well founded. One of the contributing factors to the establishment of the State of Israel was the activity of members of the *Arahgund*. Young and tough, *Arahgund* agents indiscriminately conducted a years-long war of terrorism, including bombings and murders, against the Palestinians and British civilian and military targets. Through a program of vehement public denunciations of terrorist tactics, Israel had worked long and hard to live down this element of their past. It was full knowledge of this and of the easy brand of hypocrisy that could be emblazoned upon Israel, that prompted Prime Minister Golda Meir to counter proponents of a hit team with these words:

"You can't guarantee me that some day there won't be a mistake. Someday, some of our people will get caught. Then, you tell me: what are we going to do?"

Now the last barriers had fallen and the noble first lady of Israel's objections seemed frail in the face of the stream of coffins returning to Tel Aviv. At once, Zamir and Yariv set to work establishing their assassination *aparot*. Its construction was a model of intelligence work at its best.

An "A" squad — or *Aleph*, for the initial letter in the Hebrew alphabet — would consist of two killers to be drawn either from the *Mossad* or the elite Israeli military units, whose members are instructed in the art of silent assassination. The Alephs would be killing with handguns at close range. Since close-up killing can be a shattering experience, the Alephs would have to be highly motivated or very callous — or preferably both.

The "B" squad — or *Beth*, for the second letter — would be made up of two guards and would operate as a unit with the Alephs. If the Alephs ran into difficulties, the Beths would come to their rescue. Both Aleph and Beth squads would be forbidden to mix with the other members of the team so that if the killers or guards were ever arrested, other team members could not identify them, should they, too, be apprehended.

Heth (for the eighth letter) would set up the cover that would enable the rest of the

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team to operate without detection. It would be composed of two people, most often a man and a woman, since a couple attracts less suspicion than two men. The Heth squad would rent apartments, arrange hotel reservations, provide rental cars, and supply all the other necessary logistic support. Since they operated out front, it was necessary that they be especially cosmopolitan and would need carefully devised deep covers that betrayed no trace of Israeli connection.

Next came *Ayin* (for the 16th letter) who would perform the central support role in the operation. Six to eight persons staffed the squad, with two crucial functions: 1) tracking the victim to learn his habits and movements in order to determine the proper time and place for the hit and 2) providing the protective corridor through which the Aleph and Beth squads could quickly withdraw and leave the country.

Lastly, *Qoph* (for 19th letter) would handle communications. Generally there would be two persons. One would keep in touch with the field team from a secret post near the scene of operation. The second, stationed temporarily in an Israeli embassy, would act as the relay between the post and the *Mossad* central in Western Europe, which in turn would provide a direct link to the Tel Aviv headquarters.

Step-by-step, the authors take the reader through the establishment and training of these squads of a successful hit team. Masterful suspense builds the tension, as efficient teams are tracked through hits on several terrorist leaders, their apologists, and financiers. From the start of the operation, the prime target was Ali Hassan Salameh, architect of the Munich massacre. After chronicling a string of brilliant successes, the tempo of the book changes.

In July of 1973, a message was forwarded to *Mossad* headquarters in Tel Aviv that Ali Hassan Salameh had been located in Norway, residing in the small town of Lillehammer. Immediately all resources of the covert and overt sections of the *Mossad* were concentrated on making a touch on this most wanted of terrorist leaders.

But the first string Aleph and Beth teams were tired, due for a rest. They had spent many fruitless days and weeks in the field in addition to their successful operations. A decision was made, which the authors point out as unwise, to send in teams of knowledgeable, but untried, personnel from the home office.

Capsule biographies of each person sent on the mission are given along with an almost moment-by-moment chronology of the operation, from the means used to travel from Tel Aviv to Oslo — slipping into one cover after another — up to the final seconds of the track-down and kill.

The results of this intense international manhunt will be left for the reader to

discover. Likewise, the authors' evaluation of what did and did not work. Removed from the aspects that make a good story, however, **The Hit Team** deserves further comment.

From the standpoint of this reviewer, the professionalism evidenced in establishing the hit teams — there were at least three in the field, as the authors point out — can not be faulted. The isolated cell system of organization has long ago proved its value. Whenever possible, deep cover was established for the Heth squad and, through them, for Alephs and Beths. The choreography of each hit, as portrayed by the authors leaves little for criticism. For example, the cleverly designed telephone bomb, having worked successfully once, worked again and then was dropped.

The uncoordinated and sometimes seemingly bungling activities of the Heth and *Ayin* squads could have, provided one knew what to look for, resulted in blowing their cover and exposing the operation in progress. But then, the essence of good covert ops is that no one hears about your successes. Ideally, by the time someone makes the right connections, no one is on hand to arrest and nothing can be proven. With the exception of the final hit on Ali Hassan Salameh, this dictum was adhered to stringently.

In summation, the *Mossad* operation was a class do. Yet — no one can guarantee the outcome if the coach runs in an armchair quarterback in the crucial final minutes of a game.

From a literary standpoint, the authors have created a finely polished aura of drama, suspense, and unremitting tension. The use of Israeli and Norwegian documents heightens the excitement. The only discord comes when the authors digress from their theme to offer gratuitous justification for Israeli actions. The most jarring of these is on page 130, where the authors cite the shooting down of a Libyan 727, in which 106 lives were lost. The action is taken, the authors allege, on the mere suspicion that the aircraft "might possibly" contain a huge bomb, intended for an Israeli city. The authors shrug this off as sufficient cause, while they point out the Israelis prudently maintained silence on the matter once their error was discovered. It goes along with the front cover published, according to the authors (on page 171), by an Israeli magazine following the attempt on Ali Hassan Salameh in Lillehammer, Norway. The cover illustrated pictures of Bouchiki and Salameh, with a copy slash reading: SORRY, WRONG MAN! That, my friends is *chutzpah!*

All together, though, **The Hit Team** makes authoritative, exciting reading, well worth the cover price, to include in your library. We highly recommend it.



FLAK

Continued from page 8

CHEERS FOR SOF AND FIGHTING PATRIOTS ...

Gentlemen:

I stumbled across *Soldier of Fortune* magazine on a local newsstand one day and I've been reading it ever since. I am thankful that there is finally such a "sounding board" as SOF for fighting patriots and those who want to stand up and speak out for what we believe in.

I sense in others the feeling I have had for years, that America has let down her guard and abandoned all belief in security, both national and private. I was saddened after reading SOF's interview with Major General Singlaub (January '79). It seems there are those in government today whose actions are not only questionable, but totally contradictory to American ideals and security, yet they persist and pervade. I believe that within a short time, we in this country, who are the true patriots, will be considered subversives and radicals by the government. I stand in awe at the tiny nation of Israel, and at her determination not to let anyone, regardless of size or might, deny her what she fought so hard to gain: peace and security. And we, with a similar heritage, have chosen the role of appeasement with our enemies, and adopted an "If you can't fight 'em" attitude.

The fight for freedom will be continued, but not by armies: by the "Minuteman Militias" of this age, and that's us. But we are totally insufficient, no matter what our training or arsenal. Whatever your beliefs, only heartfelt and earnest prayer to an Almighty and Holy God for America can help her now. I suggest we seek Him *now*, before it's too late. We all have something to lose if we don't.

Sincerely,
D. Morgan Carey
Greenville, SC

AUSTRALIANS AGAINST MERCYS ...

Dear Sir:

The Australian government recently introduced an act of Parliament legislating against the recruitment and/or service of "mercenaries." This act, "Crimes (Foreign Incursions and Recruitment) Act 1978," passed virtually unmentioned in the Australian press, only warranting mention after a number of Croatian "guerrillas" were found to have a training camp on the southern New South Wales coast. A number of these men were charged, the only ones to date.

However, in the *Sun-Herald* (3/12/78), an influential Sydney newspaper, a report briefly stated that Australians serving as "mercenaries" (their word, not mine) in Rhodesia could be charged if, and when they returned, the general consensus of opinion being that these men are only over there to make a fast buck.

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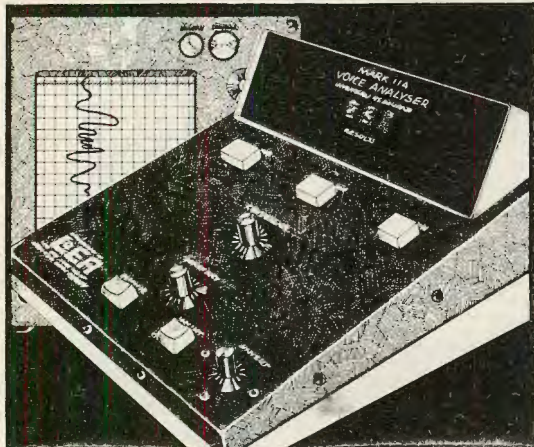
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In closing, I hope that the above information may be of some value to your readers or to yourselves and would like to congratulate you and your staff on an excellent and most informative publication.

Yours sincerely,
Graham Russell
Australia

Looks like Bureaucrats: 1; Individualists: 0. — The Eds.

NO GO FOR .223 ...

Sirs:

I agree fully with Chuck Taylor on the unsuitability of the .223 round for the military. Even when handloaded and fired from a bolt action rifle, the .223 round is but a minimal killer on even coyote. Penetration is poor even with hot handloads pushing a 60-grain bullet. The .223 is completely inferior to the 7.62 NATO round. I'd never think of hunting elk with the .223, but wouldn't have any hesitation using a .308.

The U.S. armed forces should fight to bring back the .30 cal. Just build a better "bush" gun for them. If I were forced to fight in the jungle, I'd have to say, "make mine a Thompson." Sending the .223 Rem. to war is sending an *infant* to do a man's job. Keep telling it like it is, Chuck. SOF is a first-class magazine.

Brian G. Blase
Rapid City, South Dakota

MIKE HOARE'S PROJECT OFF ...

Sir:

In reference to the January 1979 SOF, I wish to thank you for another outstanding issue. I am particularly interested in "The Wild Geese Fly Again." In this article, Venter stated that Col. Hoare was either forming or was going to form an anti-hijacker squad. This type of lifestyle appeals to me more than being a diesel engine mechanic...

Thank you,
Randy Coverington
San Antonio, Texas

To the best of our knowledge, Col. Hoare's project has not materialized. — The Eds.

CANAL SELLOUT BADGE ...

Gentlemen:

I thought you might like to see what I sent to the 68 who voted to give away our canal:

"On March 16 of this year, you voted against the majority of American people and for the interests of our enemies, when you voted to give away our Canal. Although your vote will forever brand you as a coward and a traitor, I wanted you to have a visual reminder."

Enclosure: one button reading, "My Panama Canal Badge of Dishonor."

Kenneth G. Paynter
Lubbock, Texas



BULLETIN BOARD

Continued from page 13

SOVIET TANK NEAR COMPLETION ...

The Soviets' new prototype tank, due to replace the T-72, will soon be ready for testing. Whether it will be called the T-80 or T-82 is still open to debate.

The T-72, the Soviet's current heavy battle tank, was preceded by two prototypes, the T-64 and T-72. If this pattern holds, the new tank will be called the T-82.

Whatever its final designation, the new tank upgrades its predecessor's attack capabilities. Although its main gun will be the same as the T-72's, a 125mm, its fire-power will be increased by a new laser guidance system, giving the Russians a new first-round hit capability. This new guidance system is sophisticated even by western standards. The T-80 will also incorporate a new hydropneumatic suspension system.

More problems for NATO ...

JESUIT MISSIONARY SLAIN IN RHODESIA ...

The Catholic church recently reported that a white Roman Catholic missionary was shot dead on 27 December 1978 at the Kangaire Mission northeast of Mount Darwin, Rhodesia.

The missionary was identified as the Rev. Gerhard Pieper, a 38-year-old German Jesuit from Berlin. Church sources said it was not known who was responsible for the death of Father Pieper, the first missionary reported killed since June 1978.

On 27 June, two German Jesuits, the Rev. Gregor Riccard, 48, and Brother Bernhard Lisson, 69, were shot at St. Rupert's Mission in the Sinoia area west of Salisbury. Both church and military authorities attributed their deaths to black guerrillas.

RHODESIANS TO LOBBY ON CAPITOL HILL ...


The *Washington Post* reports that a high-ranking white Rhodesian government official has said, "Britain is a spent force and what really counts for us now is Capitol Hill."

Rhodesian foreign-policy makers calculate that around 42 U.S. senators are now favorably disposed to lifting economic sanctions against Rhodesia or at least to buying Rhodesian chrome, an estimate that congressional sources agree may not be too far off.

If so, Rhodesian lobbyists need win over only a handful of additional senators to get the Senate to agree to lift sanctions wholly or in part. Pro-Rhodesian sentiment in the new House is more difficult to measure, however.

One possible candidate for the Rhodesian lobbying campaign is John Car-bough, a top aide to conservative Sen.

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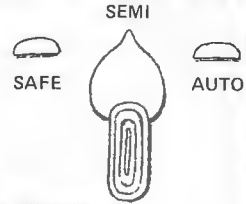
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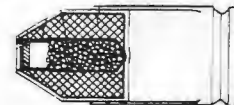
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.38 Spcl.	8	16	9.50	7.60
.41 Mag	8	16	11.50	9.20
.44 Spcl.	8	16	10.50	8.40
.44 Mag	8	16	11.50	9.20
.45 ACP	10	20	10.50	8.40
.7mm Rem Mag	4	8	10.50	8.40
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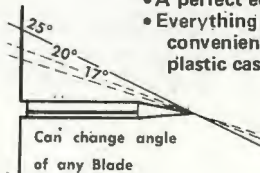
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Jesse Helms (R-NC). Carbough is reported to have been the mastermind behind the 1978 maneuvering to get Congress to pass pro-Rhodesian amendments.

We urge you to write your senator and congressman, letting them know that the American people support the Rhodesian government.

PT BOATERS ANNUAL REUNION SLATED...

The 1979 PT Boaters reunion will be held Labor Day weekend (31 August-3 September) in Phoenix, Arizona, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. Activities will range from business sessions to A.W.O.L. parties. For more info, write Joe Hughey, Ron 28, c/o PT Boats, Inc., P.O. Box 109, Memphis, TN 38101.

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RHODESIAN VIEWPOINT...

A most interesting newsletter, *Rhodesian Viewpoint*, is available free of charge from the Rhodesian Information Office, 2852 McGill Terrace, NW, Washington, D.C.

THEY DYED FOR THEIR COUNTRY...

Pat Brody of Sacramento, California, called our offices last week to report that, according to UPI, "White Isn't Right in Rhodesian Army."

Seems that Rhodesia's Grey's Scouts were given 10 horses by a group of South African citizens. However, the horses were white and therefore of no use in the bush.

Since hair dye was in short supply locally, the first experiments turned out a bit too colorfully: One primrose yellow horse, one orange, one purple, and one violet. Finally, Lt. Col. Mick McKenna and two army vets came up with a proper coloring agent: The 10 horses are now tinted chestnut brown and their white roots will show only after two weeks in the bush.



TERRAIN & SITUATION

Continued from page 18

With such a small size despite the weight, the Lawman two-inch kicks like a mule with full-house .357 Magnum loads, yet the Lawman is built tough enough to take it.

What good, one might ask, is such a short-barreled blaster with such a powerful cartridge? To answer that, one must look back to the philosophy which pro-

mulgated such guns a half-century or better ago. If the need to use the Lawman two-inch arises, think of the effect. The muzzle flash would be enormous, perhaps enough to inflict burns at truly close range. The noise effect on unprotected eardrums is unbelievable. And, with a cartridge such as the fine Federal 158-grain semi-jacketed soft point .357, the close range effect with a solid body hit would be tremendous. At worst, a miss could so upset an adversary as to possibly buy a few tenths of a second for a follow-up shot.

Most old-fashioned defense shooting ideas are these days pretty much discounted. Perhaps the idea represented by the Lawman two-incher should be rethought. The Lawman is not hard to find at a local gunshop for around \$200.00. If you do elect the Lawman, remember to buy some earplugs — just in case you have to use it!

THOUGH President Carter and his advisors haven't sought me out yet, I think I

just might have the solution for the inflation problem — in all seriousness. After careful consideration the following plan came to mind and although it might need some refinement, the essentials are these. The government should abolish individual personal income tax — completely. If not completely, let's say at least for anyone making under \$25,000. Social Security taxes for individuals should be abolished, unless self-employed. Corporations should pick up 100% of the Social Security tax and be allowed to wholly deduct the tax as an operating cost on corporate tax returns, thus saving money.

Obviously, some Federal programs would have to be cut back, such as research on eye pigmentation in frogs indigenous to Europe, etc. But worthwhile programs could still be funded through corporate income tax revenues and additional tax functions of the government.

The results would be spectacular. Workers would not need to strike for higher wages — they'd actually receive all the money they earn each week. Corpora-

tions would profit enormously through the added spending power of the American worker. This could stimulate employment. It would be almost like a free economy again, with nearly all the advantages, and there would still be enough taxation to run the government. If the government desired, once the program were inaugurated, it might be profitable to put a temporary freeze on wage and price hikes. It could be gradually lifted since few of either would be necessary.

Prices would gradually, naturally rise as the cost of production rose. Wages would gradually rise with these prices. But gone would be the inflationary game of one-upmanship now being played — and the peril it makes for the American economy. If anyone of official importance reads this, I doubt I'll be instantly elevated to Presidential advisory status. The whole problem with my plan is that it is flexible and makes sense. Both qualities rule it out completely.



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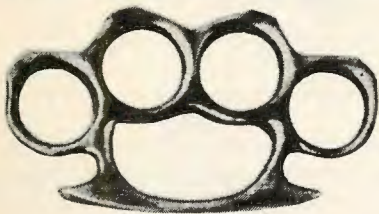


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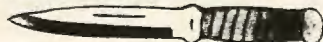
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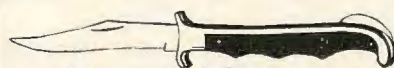
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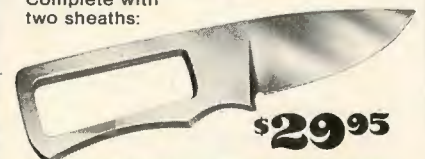


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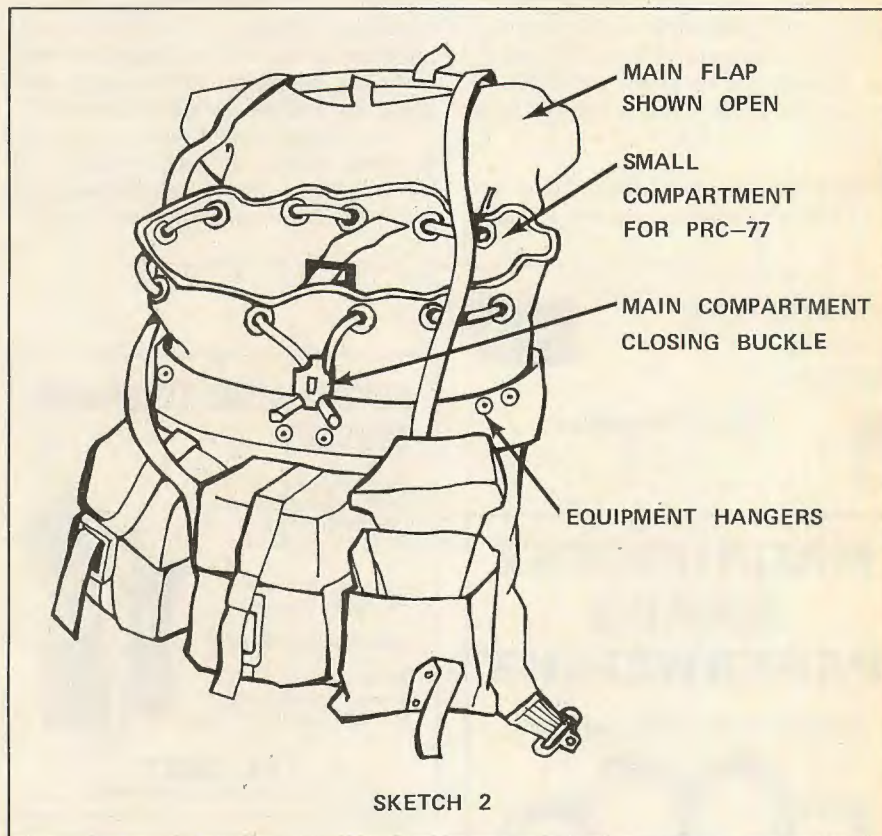
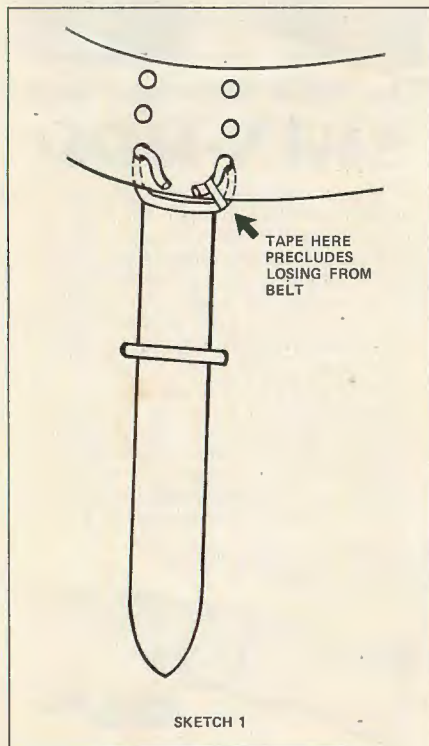
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DEALER INQUIRIES INVITED

Jungle Living

by Capt. Fred M. Berger & Lt. Waite W. Helenius

This article, reprinted with permission from the November-December issue of Infantry, the Professional Magazine for Infantrymen, is one of a series of training notes prepared in 1977 by members of the 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry, after the battalion returned to Fort Benning following three weeks of training at the Army's Jungle Operations Training Center (JOTC), Fort Sherman, Canal Zone.

In the jungle, before a unit goes on a combat mission, its commander must know how long the mission is expected to last and what extra equipment, if any, his soldiers must take with them. Generally speaking, if the mission is expected to last less than 24 hours, he should not have his soldiers carry their ALICE packs. Their



standard load-bearing equipment (LBE), with certain modifications, should suffice.

Each soldier should carry at least two canteens of water on his LBE, and should also have with him his allotment of ammunition, a poncho, a compass (if available), an entrenching tool, a bayonet, and a first aid pack with two burn packets. (The soldiers can use M60 ammunition bandoliers or socks to carry their rations in, although they will have to use safety pins or some similar devices to keep the socks closed.)

During waterborne or night operations, we found it advisable to have each soldier

attach his weapon to himself by a five-foot "dummy cord" to keep the weapon from being lost if he fell or went under the water. We also taped our holsters and bayonet sheaths so they would not pull loose from our belts. (Sketch 1.)

For missions that were expected to last longer than 24 hours, or for missions that required soldiers to carry excessive weights such as demolitions, we used the ALICE pack with frame. (Sketch 2.)

We paid particular attention to the way packs were loaded so that items needed on short notice were readily available. Also, because of its construction, the ALICE

pack has many features that permit the carrying of additional equipment. For example, we found that a 120-foot rope could be carried under the straps that seal the large compartment. We placed the rope between the two straps and the flap that covers the main compartment. LAWs could also be placed between the two straps.

Additional equipment could also be carried in the equipment hangers (webbed loops and webbing with eyelets) and fastened with slidekeepers. Hooks are available on the sides of the pack and above the pockets for carrying equipment on the outside of the pack.

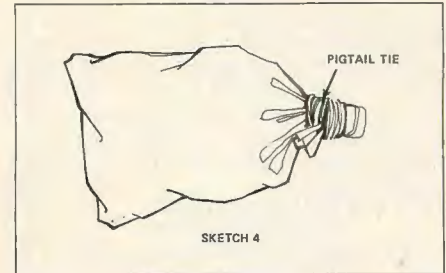
We did not use the pockets and the main compartment for carrying such items as a machete. Rather, we slid the machete in its sheath down through the tunnel behind a pocket and fastened it to the hanger above the pocket with a slidekeeper or with hooks. We also found that if we put those items we used most fre-

quently in the three outer pouches we could save ourselves time and trouble.

For instance, the two outer pouches will hold two C-ration meals, 240 rounds of M16 ammunition, three pairs of dry socks, shaving gear, heat tabs, and other small items. (These items and many of the other items carried by the soldier should be kept in properly sealed waterproof bags at all times.)

We used the central portion of the ALICE pack to carry either bulky items or things we did not need on short notice. We also did our packing in reverse order — our underwear, socks, towels, and extra fatigues went in first; then we put in our rations, except for one meal, and followed them with our sleeping gear (poncho liner, air-mattress or hammock, and poncho, if it was not already on the LBE.) (Sketch 3.)

Finally, we packed our one ration meal and any additional combat equipment we had with us. To keep our clothing dry, we



found it best not to trust our issue waterproof bag alone; when we could, we used two such bags. (Sketch 4.)

We found, too, that there was a definite lack of agreement as to whether the hammock should be used in the jungle. The instructors at the JOTC favored the air mattress because of its low silhouette; they also felt that a soldier could react better to a threatening situation if he was on a mattress rather than in a hammock.

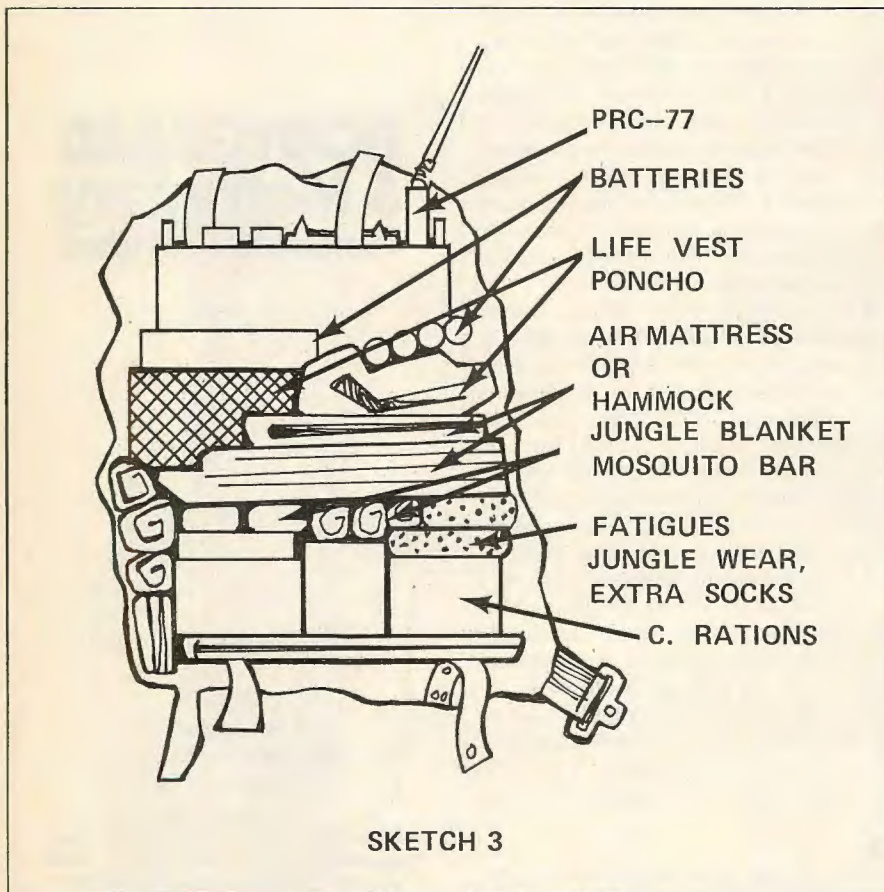
We did find, though, that if the hammock was slung tight and low and if we used spacer bars, the hammock presented a silhouette that was almost as low as the air mattress. The hammock also kept us off the ground and was much lighter to carry.

During the rainy season, obtaining water is seldom a problem in the jungle, but when members of a watering party are filling canteens they should put purification tablets in all of them. (This saves the party from having to tell each soldier that yes, his water is safe to drink.)

If the soldiers found the purified water unpalatable, they could use iced tea powder or some other instant drink mix to cover the taste. We found, too, that plastic baby bottles were ideal containers in which to carry the powders and mixes. (These bottles could also be used to carry other items that might be damaged by water — rice, flashlight batteries, and the like.)

After the soldiers ate their rations, we had them cut the bottom from the cans, flatten them, and then bury them. If for some reason we could not bury the cans, we carried them out with us.

There are many other tricks that can be used to make operating in the jungle easier. Most of them are already known to most of our soldiers. All they need is to know how to adapt them to a jungle environment.



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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

David Steele holds a Master's degree in Police Science. He served as rifle and pistol instructor for the National Rifle Assoc., and as supervisor for the Police Weapons Center Project at the International Assoc. of Chiefs of Police. Steele, an accomplished fencer, has written several books on small arms.

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COMBAT PISTOLCRAFT

Continued from page 25

both as a carry gun and stand the hard campaigning that combat pistol shooting requires. Having carried the full size Colt .45 daily, I find the Commander a welcome change. The weary feeling that would follow a long day with the five-inch Government pistol is rarely noticed with the Commander. I shoot my LW Commander once a month, usually 20 to 30 rounds. It is reliable, hard hitting, and accurate. My favorite practice exercise with it is the "El Presidente." My scores with the Commander vary only slightly from the full size gun.

With these minor modifications, the cost of gun plus work is around \$300.00. Had a trigger job been necessary, \$20.00 would have had to have been added to the cost. For the money, the Lightweight Commander .45 is my ideal general-purpose sidearm.

THE Pacific International Merchandising Corp., 2215 J St., Sacramento, CA 95818, offers a stainless steel .45 receiver for those that wish to assemble their own pistol, using a variety of surplus or newly made custom parts. Price of the Vega frame is \$59.95. I have worked on a couple of guns built up, using the Vega brand frame marketed by this firm. The examples that I have seen were well made and assembled easily with standard Colt parts. The frame appears to be an investment casting finished with quality machine work. The sides of the frame are surface ground for a smooth finish, while its edges have been lightly sand blasted to give a satin finish.

My experience with various frames available over the past few years has not been good. Until now, I would not consider building up a gun on any frame but a Colt commercial or GI issue. The Vega has impressed me enough to start work on a Combat .45 of my own. When one attempts to build a gun up out of parts, he should be careful of their source. Many GI surplus parts are ones that failed to pass the government inspectors and were then sold as scrap. Due to the demand for .45 auto parts, many dealers have sold these parts for first quality. A number of newly made .45 auto parts are being offered by manufacturers trying to cater to the .45 pistol craze. Remember that any part that is critical to function or safety is best taken from a proven source or a Colt parts distributor.

PRACTICAL combat shooters use different recoil springs in their Colt .45 autos. For years target shooters have used special soft recoil springs to make their target guns function with reduced charge wadcutter ammo. Combat shooters use a steady diet of loads that come close to or even exceed hardball factory ammo. To

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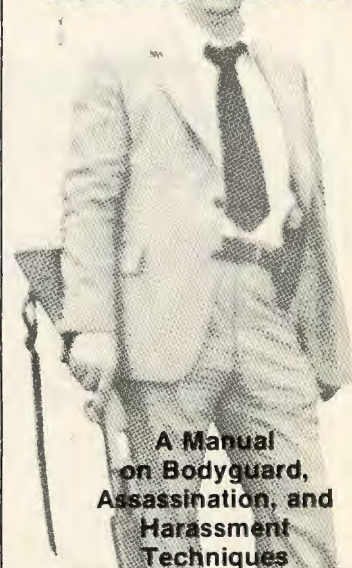
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keep the pistol in tune and save it from peening out with the pounding that these loads hand out, a special recoil spring is in order. I use only the 18½-pound version manufactured by W.C. Wolff Company, P.O. Box 232, Ardmore, PA 19003. Walt Wolff is a genius in the gun spring business. His work is top notch and is sold by most gunsmith supply firms throughout the country.

Many people don't realize that it is a good idea to replace the recoil spring every so often. I change mine after 4000 to 5000 rounds. This way the spring doesn't fatigue enough to allow the gun topeen the slide or frame. The stock spring in the Government model is 16 pounds. Adding Walt Wolff's 18½-pound version helps to make the pistol feed more positive and doesn't jar the internal parts the way the 20 to 22-pound springs do. As a matter of fact, the heavier 20 to 24-pound spring kits give more felt recoil as a result of the accelerated movement of the slide going forward in the functioning cycle.

With these heavy-spring kits comes a heavy-duty firing-pin spring also. It offsets the faster movement of the slide closing and keeps the inertia firing pin from moving forward. I find the advantage with the heavy firing-pin spring is that it keeps tension on the firing-pin stop and prevents this part's nasty habit of dropping down during firing and causing the slide not to return to battery.

Many shooters install the really heavy recoil spring kits (20-22-24 pound), thinking that they are retarding the extracting cycle of the slide and thus reducing recoil and saving the gun. Sounds good; however, that really isn't the case. In a recoil-operated pistol like the 1911, the prime action retardant is the cam action of the slide recocking the hammer under the tension of the mainspring. The next time you are urged to cut a few coils off the hammer mainspring to help give a nice smooth effect to your trigger job, remember that you are then increasing the recoil and pounding that the pistol must take during functioning. The Colt Gold Cup comes from the factory with a lighter than normal mainspring to help the gun function easier under the recoil of the light target ammo that this pistol is designed to handle. The Commander models have a heavier than standard mainspring to slow down the faster than normal slide movement caused by the short slide stroke in peak inertia.

John Browning was an expert in the most basic sense. His design was well thought out. Anytime you start changing things inside his guns, be sure you understand what they do and why.

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**ПО МАТЕРИАЛАМ
ИНОСТРАННОЙ ПЕЧАТИ**

We recently received the September 1978 issue of *Znamenonosets* (Standard Bearer) magazine, the USSR's official journal of the Defense Ministry, and have translated "Death-Bearing 'Wild Geese,'" which appeared on pages 38-39.

We've noted omitted material by ellipses (...) since the data on Robert K. Brown and Soldier of Fortune, printed in full, are representative of the article in its entirety.

Although many charges are made by *Znamenonosets*, we'll answer its mingling of truth, half truth, and outright lies by illustration rather than by point-by-point refutation, taking our publisher's calling card and the paragraph on SOF's circulation for examples.

Brown's calling card does indeed identify him as a lieutenant colonel, U.S.A.R. Because the Cyrillic alphabet changes letters (R becomes P, for instance), and because the Russians may not be familiar with American alphabet soup, we'll be generous and classify their transformation of the U.S. Army, Reserves, into the U.S. Air Force as simple confusion. (We hope

Above: Reproduction of photo introduction to article. Below: Cover of *Znamenonosets* in which article appeared.



they make the same mistake on the battlefield.)

Col. Brown does indeed have a master's degree in political science from C. U. Here in the Rocky Mountain West we all know that C.U. means the University of Colorado — but it could indeed be mistaken for City University or even Catholic University in Washington, D.C. Knowing what the letters mean depends on where you come from and (our) C.U. will be crushed to learn that it's not yet a great enough university that the Russians have heard of it. However, after a point, confusion becomes ridiculous: Even the Russians should know the difference between C.C. and C.U.

Unwittingly, *Znamenonosets* came closest to the truth in declaring that modesty is not one of Col. Brown's attributes: It isn't.

Finally, we come to Soldier of Fortune. Except for getting its figures wrong, *Znamenonosets* zeroed in on our success. Founded as a quarterly in 1975, with a first printing of approximately 7500, we're now a monthly magazine with a

print run of approximately 170,000 per issue. Our price never "soared" to \$2 a copy, however. It started at that figure and we are trying to keep it there.

This brief untangling of fact from fantasy should prepare you for the rest of Znamenonsets' "expose." We hope you get as many laughs as we did!

"Remember, should you be met by women and children, begging you for mercy on their knees — shoot, don't hesitate . . ."

No, these words are not taken from an order issued by some Hitlerite cutthroat during WW II. They were uttered by the American Michael Hoare, better known as "Wild Mike" or "Colonel," a name that is still damned by thousands of widows and orphans throughout Africa.

They don't like being called "Mercenaries," but it's different being referred to as "Professional Soldiers," "Wild Geese," "Adventurers," or simply as "Gentlemen of Fortune." When asked why murder has become their profession, they usually answer with such memorized stereotypes as "To struggle against Communism," "To annihilate Red Terrorists," or "to save Western Civilization." To them human blood has the value of water; they spill it without thinking twice wherever they are sent. In the early '50s it was Korea, then Vietnam, Algeria, the Congo, and Angola. Now there is a great demand for their services in Rhodesia which is ablaze with the flames of the National Liberation struggle by the Zimbabwean people.

Bourgeois propaganda, on both sides of the ocean, is not sparing efforts to convince the world that the West is striving for a quick and equitable satisfaction of the demands of the native population of that portion of the African Continent.

Meanwhile, against the background of this political self-advertisement, the racists, with the full support of influential allies in the Capitalist world, have launched a wide campaign aimed at strengthening their assault troop units. More than 30 percent of Rhodesian Army personnel is now composed of white mercenaries. The recruitment of mercenaries for the struggle against National Liberation Movements in Africa is being conducted feverishly in the United States, England, the German Federal Republic, and several other Western countries. . . .

The calling card of this gentleman states "Robert K. Brown, Lieutenant Colonel, United States Air Force, concurrently Master of Political Science at City College," but the card does not state the real reason for this gentleman's fame and it's not because of modesty on his part either. The fact is that in the early 1960s Brown was training Cuban emigres in the Everglades camps of Florida, preparing them for the invasion of that island of Freedom. Later the "concurrent Master" preached the ideas of the "Free World" by dropping CBUs on defenseless Vietnamese peasants. Later yet, after being

recruited by the CIA, Brown completed a "peace mission" to Peru. Today Robert K. Brown is the editor of *Soldier of Fortune* magazine or, as proclaimed by its subtitle, "A journal for professional adventurers," in other words the official publication of mercenaries and their employers.

"My friends and myself," Brown told a correspondent from the [Manchester?] *Guardian*, "are ready to go into action at any time and we are publishing this magazine for people who are ready to go into action."

The magazine praises "adventure" on foreign soil, suggests the possibility of fabulous earnings and rich booty. As a result, demand creates supply: "Former Marine desires employment as professional soldier"; "mature and experienced military man is offering to serve anywhere"; "ready to serve on permanent or contract basis. Prefer South or Central America, will accept other geographic areas with prepaid travel." Side by side with the preceding are advertised 10-inch knives "with which you can perforate the ribs, pierce the diaphragm, and drive straight to the heart." In this same magazine the latest machine guns, submachine guns, carbines, rifles and bullet proof vests are also praised by experts.

Soldier of Fortune is not a publication aimed at just a few "adventurers." In approximately two years a puny magazine with a circulation of about 4000 copies became a voluminous publication with a circulation of over 100,000 copies and the price of which soared to \$2.00 a copy!

Who are these "Gentlemen of Fortune" then? The Italian magazine, *Europeo*, wrote about mercenary bands, stating that as a rule they are composed of cutthroats from the former American "Green Beret" units, Vietnam War "Veterans," British soldiers who acquired their experience in the conduct of savage reprisals against human rights fighters in Ulster, former Nazis, Neo-Fascists of all political shades, gangsters, and common criminals. In their selection of "cadres" the Racists give preference to those who have experience in punitive operations against National Liberation Movements in Africa, Asia, and other parts of the world

Mercenaries were taught a severe lesson on Angolan soil. Even if Colonialists won't refrain from using hired cutthroats in the future as a weapon in the suppression of National Liberation struggles, it is clear that the business of those "Gentlemen of Fortune" is a lost cause. They will meet the same unglorious fate that has met mercenaries in Korea, Vietnam, Algeria and Angola.

They shall be beaten.

Ed. Note — Sez you!

"PRAVDA" MEANS TRUTH IN RUSSIAN

by M.L. Jones

The following "editorial" appeared in *Pravda*, Soviet Russia's official newspaper, some time ago, and our family scoutmaster recently discovered it. When he read it to his scout troop, they verified its "truth" by becoming, during its reading, the "howling adolescents" mentioned in the article, and they were afflicted by intermittent giggles for the next half hour.

Although their suggestion of sending it to *Mad Magazine* has merit — and shows the similarity between satire and propaganda — we decided to reprint it here. In the article, the usual Communist propaganda phrasemongering waxes ripe as vintage Limburger — We're only surprised they omitted neo-Fascists, running dogs, and imperialist lackeys from the list.

Read this "expose" of the American Boy Scouts and learn why the Russian peasant stays ignorant in this media-mad age. Then give *Pravda's* insidious use of half-truth and innuendo — the way in which such propaganda is created — the only response which it deserves: uncontrolled laughter.

A *Pravda* survey reveals that an organization called "The Boy Scouts" is turning American youngsters into hostile, warmongering imperialists. Every boy who is forced to join the Boy Scouts is trained to be a master of all forms of espionage, violence, and germ warfare. He quickly becomes a tool of the ruthless U.S. government.

At the age of 8 or 9, innocent American boys are forcibly herded into an organization which is called "Cub Scouts," which prepares them for future foul deeds.

The Cub Scout dictators force the youth to worship the wolf, one of the most vicious and uncivilized of predatory animals.

After three years of servitude in the Cub Scouts, the boys, now howling adolescents, are forced to join older, more corrupt Boy Scouts.

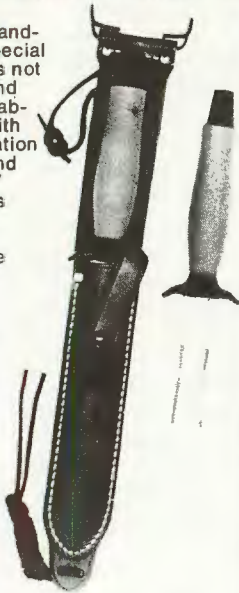
The Scouts' most deceitful ritual is the shameful Court of Honor, where young war-mongers are decorated with so-called "Merit Badges." It is here that they receive awards in such insidious fields as swimming (underwater demolition and sabotage), path-finding (counter-espionage), and pioneering (exploitation of underdeveloped nations).

In their efforts to completely control American youth, the Scout Czars have also set up a sister organization called "The Girl Scouts of America." This ill-conceived group turns girls into unpaid door-to-door cookie vendors. The proceeds of these sales, of course, go to the Wall Street masterminds of the entire plot.



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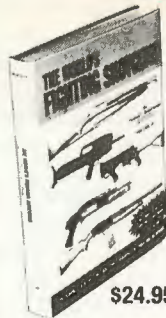
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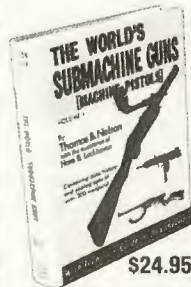
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Nite-Site®

Continued from page 37

hours, I'm pretty sure I'd be late to work the following day.

Nite-Site is available for the following weapons: Smith & Wesson revolvers with ramp adjustable sights; Colt Python, Trooper Mk III, Diamondback; Ruger Revolvers with Adjustable sights; all bead and rifle-sight shotguns. Price for handguns is \$41 (postage and handling included); rifles \$32.75 (p.h.i.); shotguns \$27.50 (p.h.i.).

My Nite-Site was installed by none other than Ikey Starks of Sports West in Denver. Always congenial, Starks initially quipped that a night sight was "about as useful as a windshield wiper on a goat's ass." After I BSe'd with Starks for a few minutes, he relented and finally allowed, "If a guy has to have a night sight, this is the cat's meow." High praise indeed since Starks still maintains that the Wright brothers did it all with mirrors.

Because some product reviews are less than objective, I've decided to end this one with excerpts from one of the many testimonials sent me by Nite-Site's founders. The following is by A.J. Somers, Royal Canadian Mounted Police Small Arms Training Staff, Crime Detection Laboratory, Box 6500, Regina, Saskatchewan S4 3J7, Canada.

... Within recent years an alternate sighting system has been developed which would seem to overcome most of the problems encountered by the sophisticated and expensive electronic light gathering or infra-red sighting systems. Referred to as the Day/Night Combat Sighting System it was developed by Nite-Site Inc., of Rosemount, Minnesota, U.S.A., and has been found to be an effective and inexpensive means of greatly increasing hit probabilities during the twilight or low-level light periods.

This sighting system is designed to replace, attach to or integrate into existing sighting arrangements on standard police firearms. It consists of a self-luminous front dot along with a similarly self-luminous rear bar. The evaluation of this Day/Night sighting system has as its criterion:

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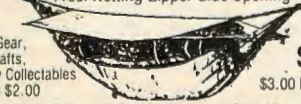
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any more fragile than original equipment, although no destructive tests have been carried out by the writer. . . .

The potential radiation hazard, should the device be accidentally or deliberately abused, is negligible since the weak beta particles from the PM 147 would appear to be adequately shielded by only a few millimeters of plastic. The epoxy encapsulation would appear to eliminate any potential hazard should the radio luminescent material be accidentally or deliberately ingested.

Hitting a target in total darkness is not a problem for a combatant since during such conditions, the target would not be visible. However, neither a total darkness situation nor the ideal lighting condition are likely to be in existence when a policeman is required to use hand held weapons against personnel targets. A typical police combat situation would probably be in a low light-level area where standard iron sights would be virtually useless as a tool to direct aimed fire. It is in this and similar situations that the Day/Night system is designed to give the policeman a decided advantage in delivering quick accurate fire to a target partially obscured by darkness. The sighting system which, in ideal lighting conditions, is virtually identical to factory original, becomes a glowing round dot at the front and glowing bar at the rear. With these components aligned so that the front dot is located immediately above the rear bar, aimed fire can be directed at even a moving target.

Before light level deteriorates to the point where conventional iron sights are not usable, the Day/Night sight dot and bar begin to show their pale green luminescence. This does not tend to distract or impede the shooter's ability to obtain as clear a sight picture as existing light would permit. As the light level decreases and conventional lights become less visible, the shooter is inclined to automatically depend on the luminescent dot and bar for his sighting picture.

The Day/Night sighting system is available for virtually any police hand or shoulder weapons in use today. Installation requires no gunsmithing experience and all necessary parts are included in the sight package.

In summing up the results of these tests, which may not be conclusive for every combat situation, it could be said that the Nite-Site Day/Night Combat Sighting System gives the policeman the ability to direct accurate, aimed fire at a target, which he could not otherwise hope to hit, in the combat conditions he will most frequently encounter.

Editor's Note: A brochure from Nite-Site, Inc., P.O. Box O (SOF), Rosemount, MN 55068, costs 50¢



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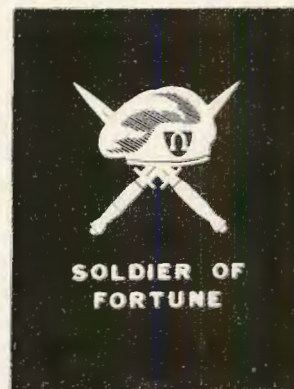
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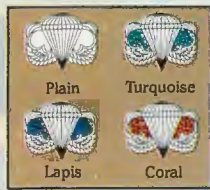
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- Plain \$129.95
- With inlaid stones:**
- Turquoise \$149.95
- Lapis \$149.95
- Red Coral \$149.95



Enclosed is my check or money order for \$ _____

Charge to: Master Charge BankAmericard Visa

Card No. _____

Expiration Date _____

My Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Add \$1 for postage and handling. In Calif. add 6% sales tax.

Send me a color poster (17" x 22") of this picture. \$3.50.

Ring size (if not known use finger calibrator below) _____

Signature _____

Mail coupon to:
THE AIRBORNE COMPANY
8722 Airlane Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90045

Cut out. Wrap around thickest part of finger (usually knuckle).

